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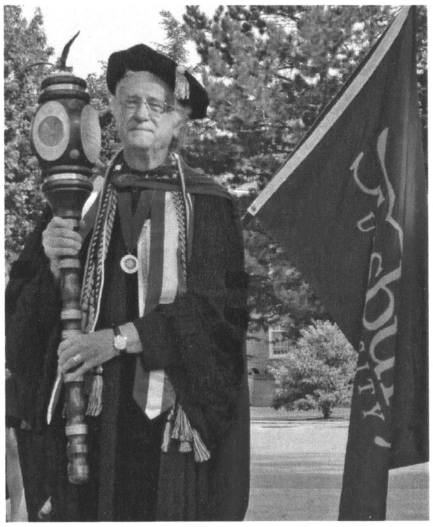
Shoreline

Vol. 23 • July 2016
For the Members of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University

The Haynie Brothers

DELAWARE CONFERENCE ACADEMY, PRINCESS ANNE.



Thompson Retires from Salisbury University: Dr. G. Ray Thompson Reflects on His Life and Career on Delmarva

POPLAR HILL MANSION.

Day Book Discovery: The Thomas A. Spence Store Ledger of Snow Hill, Maryland, 1838-1839

History of Salisbury, MD

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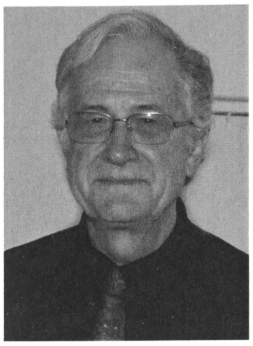
In a Word

By Dr. G. Ray Thompson



Dr. G. Ray Thompson

As I edge toward retirement and my last days as director of the Nabb Center, I'm pausing to say thanks to the many people in the region and throughout the country who have supported the Nabb Center with your donations, volunteerism, well-thought out and researched articles on the history and culture of Delmarva, and, most of all, for your ever-continuing support of the Nabb vision in very public ways with your time, talent and treasure.

Since the Center's inception, there hasn't been a deviation from the mission which we set – to educate our students and the broader community and to provide a continuing conduit for research into Delmarva's diverse past. From the first, the Nabb Center has served as a laboratory for those who wish to study the multi-faceted history of our area. We also have continued as a repository of ever-increasing historical records and artifacts of our area.

On a daily basis, you have supported us by bringing us your records and artifacts. These materials have been used by students to understand the development and growth of the Eastern Shore. Coupled with our in-house students and our extra-mural researchers, have come scholars from across the country (and Europe) to mine the resources of the Nabb Center in their scholarly research. You – our readers and supporters – have regularly assisted our efforts to bring more of our great history to light. Not only have you seen the vision of the Center, but you have regularly supported it with your funds, even in difficult financial times. Without you the Nabb Center would not have been able to survive. You have valued us as we have in turn valued you for your many, many types of on-going support. For all this I am grateful.

In this issue of *Shoreline*, as usual, we offer you a variety of articles written by students, staff and yourselves. Each of these articles demonstrates a part of that microcosm of what makes up Delmarva. Articles from the story of the journey of a young African-American from his service as a Civil War soldier to serving as a successful regional minister, to articles on our recent fundraiser at historic Finney House on Virginia's Eastern Shore. The continuing history of Salisbury is always a favorite. Articles on the Henry family and its wide-spread social and political connections, the Haynie brothers of Somerset County, and a study of an 1830s ledger from Worcester County round out this issue of *Shoreline*.

Just as I am moving into a new phase of life – retirement – so the Center is on the move. By late August, the Nabb Research Center will be housed on main campus on the fourth floor of the Patricia R. Guerrieri Academic Commons. Its treasure trove of documents and artifacts is being transferred from our east campus location to the Guerrieri Academic Commons, where you will clearly see the support provided by benefactors whose names appear throughout the Center. Again, I am most appreciative of the wonderful support you have provided throughout the past 35 years. Your frequent letters, smiles and conversations, as well as your documents and artifacts, have allowed this Center to grow to the status is has achieved today.

Years ago, our University administration likened the Center to the crown jewel of our University. Today the "luster" of that jewel continues to shine bright as another generation of researchers mine the oldest continuous records in British-speaking America right here on Delmarva. ❦

Submissions

The Nabb Research Center is always interested in articles on the history, culture or heritage of the Delmarva region. If you or anyone you know is interested in writing for *Shoreline*, please send material, proposals, suggestions or comments to the attention of the "Newsletter Editor" as follows:

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Or by email to nabbcenter@salisbury.edu. Please include the words "Newsletter Editor" in the subject line.

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CLOSINGS:
July 18-August 24
September 5
November 23-25
December TBD-January 2

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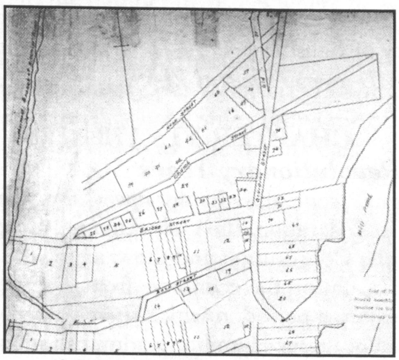
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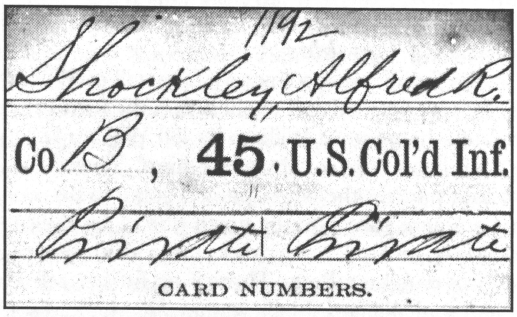
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Shockley, Alfred R.

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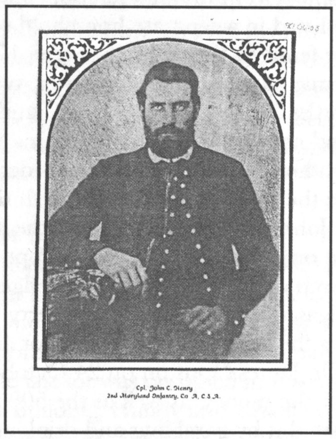
Rev. Alfred R. Shockley


Cpl. John C. Henry
2nd Maryland Infantry, Co A, C.S.A.

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Francis J. Henry

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This issue and back issues of *Shoreline* may be purchased for $15 each. Please contact us at 410-543-6312 or by email at nabbcenter@salisbury.edu. for details.

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History of Salisbury, MD

By John E. Jacob Jr.

This third installment of the unpublished manuscript Founding and Early History of Salisbury, *1730-1867 by the late John E. Jacob Jr. of Salisbury, MD contains Chapters VI-VII.*

CHAPTER VI • 1784-1799

The Post-Revolutionary Years

On the national scene, this chapter covers the years of the Articles of Confederation, the Constitutional Convention, the adoption of the Constitution and the years of the Washington presidency. Locally, on the economic front, Salisbury endured a severe depression, a period in which there was no national currency. Finally, under Hamilton's administration of the Treasury, the assumption of state debt, the formation of a national bank and the stabilization of the currency became a reality and the depression ended.

The Vanishing Venables

The Venables family poses a mystery. The will of William Venables Sr. was detailed and explicit. It is the next generation which created the mystery. William Sr. left William Jr. land and his mills "not heretofore sold by me to him." Then he divided his land into four parcels, the larger parcels going to his sons, William and John, a 4-acre parcel on the north side of his mills to his daughter, Mary, and a 4-acre parcel on the south side of the mills in trust for his daughter, Betty. There is no further reference to what he had sold William. I believe that what he had sold William was shares in the mills, probably at William's marriage.

We know William Jr. was married because a grandson, Mathias, is mentioned in his father's will. And, in the 1783 tax list, William is listed in a separate household consisting of three males and four females. Sometime between 1783 and 21 June 1784 an epidemic or some natural disaster must have occurred that wiped out the William Venables, Jr., family completely.

The second mystery is: Did William, Jr., leave the property to John, his brother, by a verbal or unrecorded will; or, did John Venables share the proceeds of the sale with the other members of the family? John got 1,000 pounds for the mills when he conveyed them on 21 June 1784 to John Pope Mitchell, and after that on 17 March 1785 when he acknowledged receipt of the money and released his claim to the property. This nine-month delay buttresses the sharing theory. John got an additional 500 pounds from Dr. James Houston on 24 October 1786. After John got his share of the money, as well as the 500 pounds, he perhaps dissipated it by gambling and drinking. This is based on his petition at the end of 1786 for insolvency and his being committed to jail for non-payment of debt.

The four acres south of the mills were left to one of William Jr.'s sons-in-law in trust for his daughter, Catherine Scogglemore, alias Catherine Nevins. The son-in-law saw to it that a house was built on the lot and Catherine lived there. She in turn had a daughter, Catherine, who married John Hoffman, who was a miller at the time and was recognized as the owner of the property. It was finally conveyed to the owner of the mills half a century later.

Now to the 4 acres on the north side of the mill pond left to Mary Venables. Mary was still single on 24 October 1786 when her brother John conveyed the land in Worcester to Dr. James Houston, because he excepted the 4 acres from that deed. I believe that Mary became the second wife of Jesse Fooks, had one child, James, and then died. There is no conveyance by her in the Worcester land records. If she married Jesse, he would have acquired a life estate for his life by virtue of his marriage. Jesse did convey the tract shown on the 1817 plat of Salisbury as "James Fooks old field" to his son, James, reserving a life estate for himself. James already had the remainder interest in the 4 acres as his mother's heir, but the deed gave him the exclusive interest in the other land around it. James was the executor of his father's will but received nothing under it, because other provisions had been made for him.

In 1801, the trustees for Colonel Peter Chaille conveyed to Jesse Fooks and James the property called Race Ground, which was the patent name for the land John Venables had sold to Dr. James Houston. This deed brought title of the two tracts together.

Dr. James Houston had bought the land that John Venables had inherited from his father on 24 October 1786 and another lot out of the William Venables Jr. tract on the south side of Bridge Street on 3 April 1788. He was apprehensive about the validity of both titles, so he re-patented them from the State. The first he called Race Ground and the second Chance. When Houston died, he left no heirs and the land described in both deeds and the patents escheated to the State.

Dr. James Houston was an interesting character. He had married Nancy, the widow of Bartholomew Kennedy, on 25 May 1795 and, as her husband, acquired a life estate in the property adjoining Chance. Nancy had a minor son, so it was not a life estate in the whole property. A John McKim Jr. obtained a judgment against Houston for 173 pounds 4 shillings 6 pence levied on both properties in 1801. Houston had built a brick building on Chance and the sheriff sold it to Captain Robert Dashiell, but he did not get an offer on the Kennedy property. But, when the sheriff re-offered Houston's life interest the following year, he sold it to John Rider for $20.

The Mills in Salisbury

The Dividing Street mill was sold to a man from Delaware, John Pope Mitchell, who came to Salisbury ostensibly with plenty of money. He bought the tavern south of the bridge on the river from William Dymock. Then he bought the mills. He was not expecting a post-war depression, and, when it came, he was vulnerable. He went broke. Three trustees, Esme Bayly, Josiah Gillis Polk and William McBryde, were appointed to sell the mills for the benefit of his creditors. They sold the mill property, which included 30½ acres of Mill Security and 75 acres of Friend's Good Will, to William Winder Jr.

The mill at Tumbling Dam (Isabella Street) also changed hands. Littleton Dennis died and the Polks bought his interest from his widow. Then Josiah Polk died in February 1784 and left his interest in the mill to his sister, Sinah Bayly, the wife of Esme

Bayly. Then Sinah deeded her interest in the mill to her son, Josiah. He acquired the remaining interests and began an ownership that was to last for 40 years.

A new sawmill had been built on the northeast branch of the Wicomico as shown on the 1877 map of Salisbury. It was located where Fitzwater Street crosses the northeast branch and becomes Parsons Road. It had been built by George Handy and Bable Green, and at Green's death, Handy bought his interest from Green's daughter.

Doctor Robert Lemmon and Nancy, His Wife

John Nelms died in 1787, leaving a life estate in his home property to Nancy, his wife. This property was about 10 acres, containing a house and other outbuildings. This made Nancy, who was a second wife and young enough to be his daughter, a most eligible widow.

By this time, Robert Lemmon had moved to Salisbury. His Sinepuxent salt works job had ended with the war, and he had probably joined with John Venables to study medicine under Dr. Matthew Wilson. Lemmon and Nancy were both Baptists and undoubtedly knew each other. They were soon married and promptly had two children, Maria and Richard.

We do not know when Lemmon began the study of medicine, but we do know that he was a doctor by 1793 when he finished paying the sheriff of Somerset County for the John Venables tannery property near Main Street Bridge on which he had bid four years earlier. His heirs sold the tannery after Lemmon's death in February 1817. The other town property that Lemmon owned was a tavern next to the tannery, which was operated by a Benjamin Polk in 1798. He also owned a 100-acre farm north of Salisbury.

When Dr. Lemmon died, he left Nancy a widow for the second time. Their son, Dr. Richard Lemmon, lived with her and she remained a widow.

William Winder

In the fall of the year 1792, William Winder died. Shortly before his death he conveyed to his son, William Jr., the house in what is now called Camden, which had been the steward's home when it was part of Wicomico Manor. This house was still standing in 1892 when it was mentioned in the *Salisbury Advertiser*. This is where William Winder Jr. then lived; it had been turned over to him when his father acquired land near Mardela.

Winder's death marked the end of an era. He was the last of those who were knowledgeable about Salisbury's beginnings and who could remember when every structure was built and the person for whom it was built. He was born 16 March 1714 or 1715 and was 78 years old when he died. He had been a mariner, merchant, farmer, Presbyterian elder, as well as clerk of the session, member of the legislature, justice of the quorum, judge of the Orphan's Court, judge of the Circuit Court, commissioner of the tax for Somerset County, a substantial property owner and a wealthy man. He had sired a large family, and among his sons was a future governor of Maryland. He believed that a gentleman owed his community a lifetime of service and he had rendered it. In 1792, his son, William Jr., was appointed the first postmaster of Salisbury.

The Baptist Church

The legends about the beginnings of the Baptist Church in Salisbury are all very interesting, but sometimes they conflict. Torrence, in his book *Old Somerset*, says that in Somerset Judicials for 1738-1740 page 206, the Reverend Paul Palmer came before the court to add to the number of places where he would conduct services. One of these was "the house of James Houston." Was this our James Houston?

John Nelms of Salisbury was a converted Baptist. He was probably converted by his second wife at the time of his remarriage. What is referred to as "the Baptist Oak" was on their front lawn.

The Baptist Salisbury Association was purportedly formed in 1782, but there is no record that it owned property at that time. There are records to show that there was a Baptist meeting house on the Delaware Road near where it crosses the Naylor Mill Road, and that they held a meeting in it on the third Saturday in October 1795, calling it the Salisbury Church, with the Reverend Elijah Baker in the pulpit. The reverend addressed the association "in a manner as if heaven and earth were to come together." On a later visit, the venerable pioneer was visiting Dr. Lemmon's home. He was stricken with a fatal illness and died there on 6 November 1798. Reverend Baker was supposedly buried on the Lemmon property, but no grave has been found on that property.

Legend has it that "on his first visit to Salisbury the announcement that a Baptist preacher would hold a meeting on a stated day under an oak in the yard of Dr. Robert Lemmon, a well- known physician in the town, so irritated one man that he crossed his hands over his breast and declared, 'unless these hands are tied, I will make bacon of Baker before he shall preach.'"

The next day this man, attempting to follow a runaway servant into a loft where the servant had hidden, was shot and killed by the desperate servant. When the news was carried to the congregation that had gathered to hear Mr. Baker, many people believed this was a judgment from Heaven against the man who had so bitterly opposed the proclamation of the Gospel.

Still another legend claims that in the first service held by Baker on Maryland's Eastern Shore, "Madam Bell, a member of the Established Church, was converted to the Baptist position." She was an ancestress of our late mayor, Elmer Ruark.

More on William McBryde

In a deposition made on 19 October 1793, William McBryde told what happened when he asked Solomon Russell to buy lots from William Venables. One lot went to Solomon Russell, one went to Samuel and Robert Smyly, and the third to Ebenezer Handy and William Chaille. The last lot was occupied in the mid-20th century by the Hess Building. Handy and Chaille conducted a mercantile business on this lot, but their business was sold at a sheriff's sale to Robert and Peter Dashiell. They in turn sold it to a Christopher Williams of Baltimore for $1,000 in 1799.

Samuel Smyly and his nephew, Robert, were merchants in Salisbury after the Revolution. Smyly, who came here from Snow Hill, purchased the former tavern property by the river in 1792 and used it as a granary. Later, they bought the lot next to Handy and Chaille. Samuel Smyly was a member of the Presbyterian Church and on 6 May 1806 was contacted by the church elders regarding a quarrel with Mrs. Hannah Polk. The elders were attempting reconciliation between church members.

Hannah refused the efforts of the peacemakers and was subsequently suspended from church membership for her intransigent attitude.

William McBryde, a Presbyterian elder, died without a will. At the time of his death he was a partner of James Ritchie and Hugh Gemmill in the mercantile business. He also owned a saw and a grist mill east of Salisbury and lived at New Nithsdale.

James Ritchie had been born in Scotland in 1765 and came to Salisbury in 1790 after immigrating to Baltimore in 1781 during the Revolution. He married, but he had no children. Ritchie was the first merchant to have a wharf lot across the Wicomico River west of the north branch, where he bought three lots.

Tanneries

The tannery was a local industry, and every town had its own. It produced boot and shoe leather, including soles and uppers, and leather for harnesses, gloves, purses and belts for wearing apparel. After the introduction of steam machinery, leather was produced for industrial use. Tanning was an art. Pig skin, deer, cow, calf, horse and sheep hide all required different lengths of time in the tanning vats. Oak bark was the most common tanning agent, but sumac and other barks had their uses. It required a series of vats, a source of fresh water and a bark house where the bark was ground by a blindfolded horse going around in a circle to pulverize the bark.

Usually the tannery was a local monopoly, but that was not so in Salisbury. The first tannery in Salisbury was located on the east side of the north branch of the Wicomico River in the area of Mill Street between West Chestnut and Bush Streets. Jonathan Thrift may have been the first tanner in Salisbury. He patented Sailors Delight and lived at the foot of Bridge Street.

In 1798, the tannery belonged to Dr. Robert Lemmon and later to Benjamin J. Dashiell. The sketch of Dashiell's life in Volume II of the *Dashiell Family History* says that his nickname was Tanner Bill. He formed a partnership with Dr. William Wailes while Wailes was head of the other tannery.

Where Ebenezer Leonard learned the business is unknown, but he was already a master tanner when he opened his tannery on the shores of the mill pond, then operated by William Winder Jr. in 1803. [The Leonard tannery ledger is now in the archives of the Nabb Research Center.]

Disposal of the Winder Property

Upon William Winder's death, his son, William Winder Jr., became his executor. He assumed power he did not possess and began disposing of his father's land that had not been specifically devised. One parcel was the land on the Somerset side of Dividing Street from the Nelms property north of the railroad tracks. He sold it to Dr. Martin Luther Haynie, but it required three deeds to give Haynie good title, one from John Winder, a second from William Winder, and the third from the rest of the heirs. Haynie did not lay out the land in a planned development of lots covering the entire area he owned or lay out streets. Instead, he sold land by the acre in different lot sizes to suit each customer and everything was sold with reference to the road to Laurel. Haynie sold six lots before 1800, most of them containing several acres.

On the Worcester County side of Dividing Street, the land was sold to Major Levin Handy in 1795. He was the son of a Handy who had moved to Rhode Island from Somerset. Levin had married a Salisbury girl and had come to Salisbury to settle.

An act was passed to resurvey Salisbury "because the plat cannot be found and the boundaries are unknown." Esme Bailey, Frances H. Walter, James Polk, John Leatherbury, James Bennett, Gabriel Slacomb and Benjamin Dennis were appointed as commissioners and were to meet before 10 May 1794 and have the town surveyed and to record the plat.

The Act also provided that "since it is doubtful where the public road that divides Somerset and Worcester will run," the Commissioners will have full power and authority to ascertain the true location of that road and also the location of said road from Dividing Street to the bridge and across the river.

The Act also provided that no suit could be brought to upset the Commissioners' finding except within one year and after that their finding was absolute. There is no record that this Commission ever did anything. They certainly prepared no plat. The mistake that was made was in assuming that both streets were in the original town. This did, however, lay the groundwork for the 1817 survey.

Other Property Transfers

Richard Mills, who owned property in the former Wicomico Manor, sold the property on Snow Hill Road to James Fooks. This is the James Fooks, son of Jesse Fooks, who owned the property downtown.

On 5 June 1799, Dr. Thomas Winder sold to William Lane, blacksmith, for 50 pounds, 160 pence, 1/4 acre of Sandy Plains, all the land in Sandy Plains left him by his father William.

The Vestry of Stepney Parish sold the first and second of its lots on Bridge Street to James Ritchie and William Anderson to help pay its bills.

Federal Assessment

In 1798, during the presidency of John Adams, a Federal Assessment was made on land, houses and slaves, and a federal tax was imposed. This was due to the imminent war that was brewing with France. Fortunately, the causes of disagreement were settled and war never materialized, but the assessment records for Somerset County have been preserved.

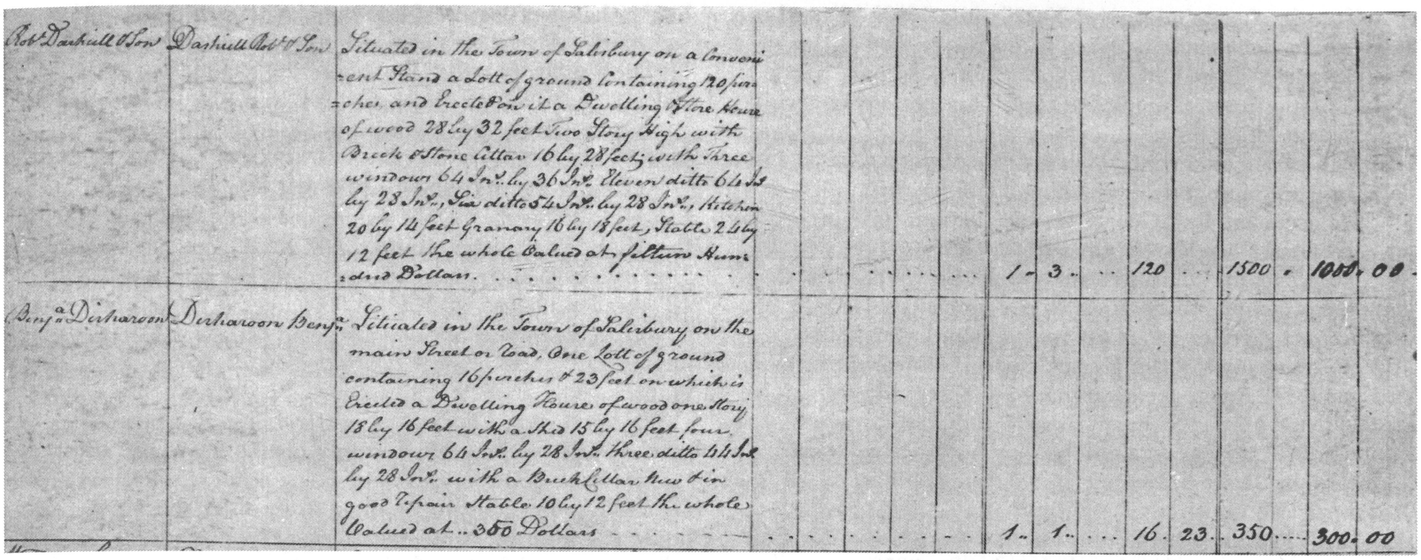
The assessment shows the occupant, the owner, the land location, its size, the dimensions of the dwelling on the lot, the number and size of the windows, the size of the outbuildings and their purposes, the number of floors in the dwelling, whether it was wood or brick and whether it had a cellar.

Each assessment in Salisbury is set forth in full:

Hamilton Austin (deceased) in town of Salisbury, a dwelling 20' X 16' wood frame 1 story high with three windows 44" X 28". The whole building in bad repair. Kitchen 12' X 10'. One log shop 10' X 10'. Assessed at $120 (fronting on dividing street).

Ebenezer Hearn (occupant), Peggy Baker, owner, in town of Salisbury. Lot contains 11 perches plus 186 sq. Feet. A new dwelling house with brick cellar of wood 24' X 10'. Two story with shed. Four windows 64" X 28". Eight windows 44" X 28". Two 44" X 20". Kitchen 20' X 16' with covered way. $600.

Robert Dashiell & son, owners and occupants in town of Salisbury, on a convenient stand a lot of ground containing 120 square perches and located on it a dwelling and storehouse of wood 28' X 32'. Two stories high with brick and stone cellar 16' X 28'. Three windows 64" X 36". Eleven at



Robt Dashiell & Son	Dashiell Robt & Son	Situated in the Town of Salisbury on a Conveni=ent Stand a Lott of ground Containing 120 per=ches and Erected on it a Dwelling & Store House of wood 28 by 32 feet Two Story High with Brick & Stone Cellar 16 by 28 feet; with Three windows 64 Ins. by 36 Ins. Eleven ditto 64 Ins by 28 Ins., Six ditto 54 Ins. by 28 Ins., Kitchen 20 by 14 feet Granary 16 by 18 feet, Stable 24 by 12 feet the whole Valued at fifteen Hun=dred Dollars.						1	3		120		1500		1000	00
Benja Disharoon	Disharoon Benja	Situated in the Town of Salisbury on the main Street or Road, One Lott of ground containing 16 perches & 23 feet on which is Erected a Dwelling House of wood one Story 18 by 16 feet with a Shed 15 by 16 feet four windows 64 Ins. by 28 Ins. three ditto 44 Ins by 28 Ins. with a Brick Cellar New & in good repair Stable 10 by 12 feet the whole Valued at .. 350 Dollars						1	1		16	23	350		300	00

1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment

64" X 28". Six 54" X 28". Kitchen 20' X 14'. Granary 16' X 18'. Stable 24' X 12'. $1,500.

Benjamin Disharoon, owner and occupant. On main street in Salisbury. 16 perches and 23 square feet. A dwelling house of wood. One story 18' X 16' with a shed 15' X 16'. Four windows 64" X 28". Three 44" X 28" with a brick cellar. New and in good repair. Stable 10' X 12'. $300.

Peter Owens, occupant, Jesse Green, owner, in town of Salisbury fronting on Main Street. Lot 16 perches on which is a dwelling and store house. Two story in front and one in back of wood 22' X 22' with 12 windows 44" X 28" and two 44" X 20". $400.

Levin Dorman, occupant, Jesse Green, owner, lot on back of above lot 120 perches, on it a dwelling house of wood 36' X 24', two story with flush cellar of brick with four windows 64" X 36", twelve 44" X 28", one 20" X 24", old billiard room 32' X 16' with five windows 44" X 28", stable 22' X 22', $800, on same lot a house 20' X 16' under the tenure of Dorman included in the above valuation.

John Houston, owner and occupant, on main street, Salisbury lot 23 perches and 80 square feet with a dwelling 20' X 16' of wood two stories high new unfinished inside with four windows 54" X 28", five 44" X 28", two 24" X 20", kitchen 10' X 10', $450.

William James, owner and occupant, in the suburbs of Salisbury, on lot 110 perches. On it is erected a dwelling house of wood two stories high 30' X 18' finished in plain order with eleven windows 44" X 28", kitchen 28' X 14', store house 18' X 16' with two windows 44" X 20", one 44" X 28", one small outhouse 12' X 12', ditto 10' X 18', carriage house 20' X 10', all in good repair, $450.

Thomas Lane, owner and occupant. On main street adjoining captain Robert Dashiell. A dwelling house of wood, two stories with a shed 14' X 10', eight windows 44" X 28", two 28" X 24". Kitchen 14' X 13'. New and the whole finished in plain order. Lot 96 perches. $500.

Robert Lemmon, owner and occupant. Doctor situated in suburbs of Salisbury. A dwelling house of wood with cellar 36' X 20'. Two story finished in plain order. Four windows 44" X 20", six windows 44" X 20", kitchen 14' X 16', smoke house 10' X 12', stable of slabs 20' X 16', erected on 80 perches of land. $400.

Benjamin Polk, occupant, Robert Lemmon, owner. Situated on Main Street in Salisbury near the bridge. Dwelling house occupied as a tavern 20' X 34'. Two story with shed 20' X 12'. Three windows 54" X 28", eight windows 44" X 28", stable 22' X 18' framed. One-acre lot. $700.

George Robertson, occupant, James Mackay heirs, owner. Town of Salisbury. A dwelling house 20' X 16', two story with frame addition of shed 20' X 26' with seven windows 44" X 28", four windows 34" X 28", one window 34" X 20". Kitchen 12' X 15' stable of slabs 24' X 16'. Smoke house 14' X 8'. Lot 49 square perches. $400.

John Lane, occupant, Jonathan Parsons, owner. Town of Salisbury on a back lot containing 60 perches of land. A dwelling of wood, one story, badly finished with two windows 44" X 28". Annexed kitchen slabs 14' X 14' bad. $110.

William Patrick, occupant, James Robins, owner. Town of Salisbury. Lot 60 perches on a back street. On it a dwelling of wood 32' X 16'. Two story with a shed 16' X 14' of wood finished in plain order, but out of repair with six windows 64" X 28", five windows 44" X 28", one 14" X 20". Storehouse 22' X 16' with two windows 54" X 28", two 44" X 20". $350.

Steven Thomas, occupant, William Anderson, owner. In town of Salisbury on the main street in the center of business containing 11 perches and 168 square feet. On it is erected a store house 16' X 24'. Story and a half with a 10' shed by the length with two windows 44" X 28" and two windows 24" X 40". New. $200.

John Gray, occupant, Peggy Bulger, owner. Lot of ground on one eighth of an acre at a convenient stand on which is erected a storehouse 16' X 16' with shed 12' X 12' with three windows 44' X 28'. $350.

Joseph Brittingham, owner and occupant. A lot back of Salisbury of one acre with a log dwelling house 16' X 16'. $30.

Esme Bailey, owner and occupant. Three one acre lots back of Salisbury in Haynie's settlement. $30.

David Cathell, owner and occupant. Adjoining Thomas Lane, 40 perches with a store house of wood 20' X 16', one and a half stories, four windows 44" X 28", shop 16' X 16', and two stories with eight windows 24" X 20". $500.

Colonel William Chaille. No occupant. A corner lot in a public part of town, unimproved containing 11 perches and 168 square feet. $40.

Will Cullen, occupant, William Dailey, owner. One acre of land back of Salisbury with dwelling 20' X 16'. $50.

No occupant, Rev. George Dashiell, owner. Unimproved lot in Salisbury. 11 perches 168 square feet. $40.

No occupant, William Horsey, owner. Lot 20 perches, adjoining Captain Smyly on which is a storehouse 24' X 18' of wood, three windows 44" X 28" with a stone cellar. $300.

No occupant, William Horsey, owner. Lot near the bridge, one perch 112 square feet, a granary 24' X 16'. $80.

Littleton Young, occupant, Isaac Handy's heirs, owners. Lot containing 40 perches with old dwelling house in bad repair. Occupied by Mrs. Christopher, an old store house 24' X 18' in bad repair. No value.

John Denston, owner, occupant. One store house 22' X 12' in bad repair, stone cellar, the whole valued at $250.

Philo Lewis, occupant, Joshua Hitch's heirs, owners. Adjoining Ritchie and Gemmill. 11 perches, 168 square feet, with store house of wood, new two story 25' X 20' with five windows 54" X 28" and nine 44" X 28", finished inside. $500.

Dr. Martin L. Haynie, owner, occupant. One quarter acre lot adjoining William James unimproved. $10, ten acres laid off in lots, a little back of Salisbury, $80.

William Jones, occupant, Isaac Hearn, owner. 8 perches of land adjoin Salisbury. $15.

John Houston, owner, occupant, eighteen acres in Haynie's settlement. $144.

Major Levin Handy, owner, occupant. Four acres in Haynie's settlement. $32.

William James, owner, occupant. Adjoining Winder Polk's mill pond 20 acres. For the most part covered in water $20. Eleven acres lying in Haynie's settlement $88.

Captain Purnell Johnson, owner, occupant. Lot near the bridge 40' X 30', with a granary 32' X 18'. $100.

John Knipshilt, owner, occupant. Three acres in Haynie's settlement. $40.

Dr. Robert Lemmon, owner, occupant. In the suburbs of Salisbury, nine acres and 80 perches $152. On which is a quarter 12' X 12', ditto 16' X 16', two dwelling houses 14' X 16', barn 20' X 14', two lumber houses 12' X 12' $160.

Dr. Robert Lemmon, owner, occupant. Two-acre lot with a tan yard, tan house, new 30' X 20'. Lumber house 16' X 14', shop 12' X 12', granary 26' X 18', store house 16' X 14' with 10' shed. $600.

Dr. Robert Lemmon, owner, occupant. One hundred acres between Salisbury and Parker's mill. $280.

No occupant, Thomas Lane, owner, two lots in Haynie's development, four acres. $40.

No occupant, Nancy Nelms, owner. Store house 20' X 16' on the same space of ground. $100.

No occupant, Nancy Nelms, owner. A parcel of land adjoining Joseph Leonard, no size or value.

William Cambridge, occupant, Hannah Polk, owner, dwelling house 32' X 18' sawn logs. $60.

Nancy Willing, occupant, Hannah Polk, owner, dwelling house 20' X 16', two small log kitchens 10' X 12' and 12' X 12', lumber house of logs 20' X 20', smoke house 6' X 8'. $60.

Samuel Pear (Parr), owner and occupant. Six acres in Haynie's settlement. $48. Log house 15' X 15', shop 12' X 12'. Value $30.

George Robertson, owner and occupant. Four acres of land near Salisbury. $32.

Captain Samuel Smyly, owner and occupant. Lot in Salisbury, 20 perches. On it a store house 28' X 18' with shed 11' the whole length, three windows 64" X 28", one 34" X 20", granary, stable and carriage house under the same roof 38' X 18', small old house 10' X 8'. $600.

Captain Samuel Smyly, owner and occupant. Lot and lumber yard enclosed near the bridge on 20 perches with granary 30' X 18'. $200.

No occupant, Eli Vincent, owner. Lot in Salisbury 44 perches. Old dwelling 20' X 16', out of use. $150.

Stone and Ritchie and Betsy Riley, occupant. Ritchie and Gemmill, owners. Situate on main street in Salisbury a dwelling house and store 36' X 30', two stories, of wood with flush brick cellar, calculated for kitchen in part. Annex new with seven windows 64" X 28", 11 windows 44" X 28", two 34" X 20", one 24" X 20", granary and stable one story 30' X 16' new. Erected on 11 perches and 168 square feet. $800.

George Stevens, owner and occupant. In town of Salisbury adjoining the lot of James Robins, a lot of ground containing 80 perches. On it a dwelling house 16' X 22' one story of wood and finished plain with three windows 44" X 28", two windows 44" X 20", framed kitchen 14' X 14', shop 12' X 14'. $300.

James Smith, owner and occupant. Town of Salisbury on main street adjoining Captain Robert Dashiell to the west, a lot containing 32 perches, one dwelling house 24' X 16' two story, of wood finished in plain order with eight windows 44" X 28", one other dwelling 18' X 16' one story with four windows 44" X 28", one store house 16' X 16' with two windows 44" X 28". $1,000.

Jesse Townsend, occupant, Captain Thomas Skinner, owner. In Salisbury on Back Street a dwelling of wood with a stone cellar 30' X 20' two story with five windows 64" X 28", eight windows 44" X 28", two windows 44" X 20", kitchen of wood 16' X 25' erected on a lot of 60 perches. $400.

Esme M. Waller, owner and occupant. In Salisbury Back Street adjoining George Stevens's dwelling house 26' X 24', one story of wood and finished in plain order with nine windows 44" X 28", two windows 44" X 20". Kitchen 20' X 12', smoke house 10' X 10', erected on 40 perches of land. $300.

John Knipshilt, occupant, William Winder, owner. Situate adjoining Salisbury, at the mill, a lot containing forty perches on which is erected a new two story house of wood 24' X 20' with three windows 54" X 28", one window 44" X 28", one window 44" X 20". $250.

No occupant. William Winder, owner. Adjoining Salisbury, a dwelling 19' X 14' with shed 30' X 10'. A piazza on two sides of wood one story with two windows 64" X 28", four 44" X 28", a kitchen 16' X 14' with an entry between that and dwelling. Erected on 1 acre. $300.

Thomas Winder, owner and occupant. Doctor. Situate on Wicomico River about one mile below Salisbury on the south side. A dwelling of wood, one story 42' X 18' with a shed 20' X 8', three windows 64" X 36", seven windows 44" X 28" and one window 44" X 20". House unfinished on the inside, old kitchen

◆ ◆ ◆

12' X 14'. Erected on 40 perches. $200.

William Winder, owner and occupant. Lot adjoining bridge with a store house 32' X 18' two story and cellar. $300.

John Culver, owner and occupant, lot situate adjoining Salisbury on 180 acres, saw and grist mill. $2,500.

CHAPTER VII • 1800-1807

The New Century

A new century had arrived. Thomas Jefferson had been elected president of the United States after 36 ballots by the House of Representatives. Maryland had split its vote four to four on each ballot. After the 36th ballot, Samuel Smith, later to be renowned for his defense of Baltimore, talked to the four Federalists who had voted for Aaron Burr and persuaded them to cast blank ballots on the next round. One of these Federalists was John Dennis, representing the Lower Shore. James A. Bayard of Delaware had told Smith that he was going to vote for Jefferson on the next ballot, and this was the news that persuaded the Marylander to vote as he did.

The Louisiana Purchase would come during Jefferson's first term, and the Lewis and Clark expedition during the second. These events had turned the eyes of the nation westward in looking for opportunity. But there was equal opportunity in Salisbury for all those who looked.

Vestry of St. Peter

Existing mills were running full force, and new ones were being built. Salisbury was growing, and there was much property for sale. The Vestry of Stepney Parish had always claimed that their 2 acres included the bed of Bridge Street at its junction with Dividing Street; the vestrymen conceded that they had lost title to the street bed, but they claimed title to the south side of the street and the north side as well. The vestry needed money and wanted to sell property to raise it.

The vestry secured passage of an Act of Assembly authorizing it to sell land for the purpose "of repairing several places of worship in said Parish." The vestry sold "all the land belonging to the church except what they considered sufficient for a church." The church had been built on Church Street, but the vestry reserved a strip of land leading to Bridge Street that became St. Peter Street. On 13 May 1801 the Vestry sold the lot on the east side of St. Peter Street to James Ritchie. And by two unrecorded deeds they sold the lot next to the Ritchie lot to Dr. William James and the lot on the south side of Bridge Street to John Cathell.

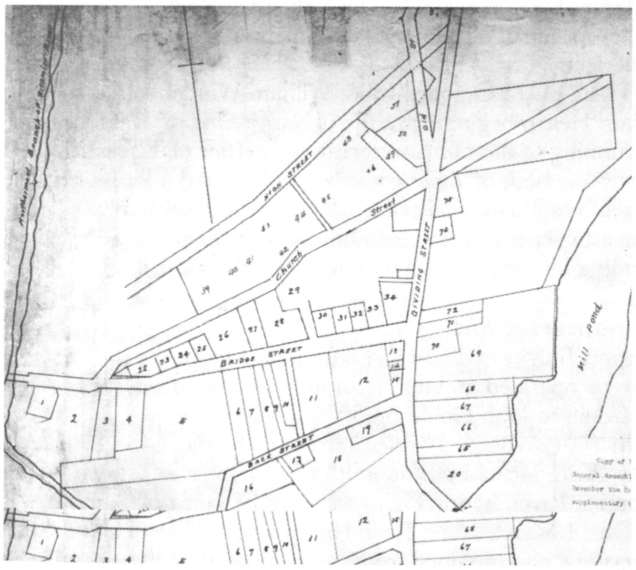
On 2 March 1805 the vestry, consisting of George Ayres, John Dashiell, William Russum and Jonathan Waller, sold the rest of the property. They sold Lot 1 to John and Henry Maddux for $300, Lot 2 to Isaac Hearn for $ 120, Lots 3 and 4 to William Hearn for $148, and Lot 5 to James Ritchie for $80; in addition, they sold John Moore a small piece of land for a garden for $10. The parcels were subject to a 6 percent discount for immediate payment, and the Hearns and Ritchie took advantage of it. John Moore also paid in full to the vestry, but he did not get a discount or a deed.

John Moore was the owner of the tavern that later became the Chaille property, and the garden is the triangular piece of property that is located behind what later became the First National Bank. The Ritchie lot was on St. Peter Street behind his other lot and the next two lots and is now the White and Leonard's building.

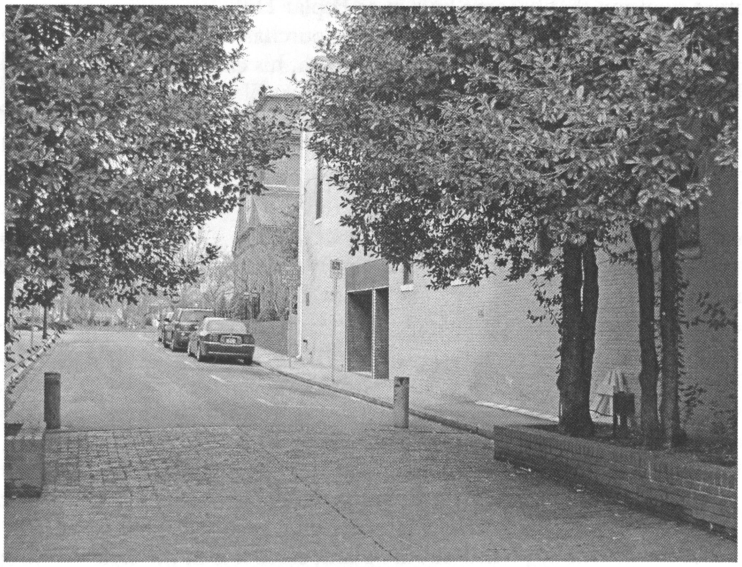
In 1808, the Vestry sold the land behind what is today Kuhn's Jewelers, containing 4,535 square feet, to John Rider for $220.

John Rider, Merchant

John Rider was an eager young merchant when he bought Lot No. 5 of the former church lots from William Anderson for $700 on 7 July 1804. Soon, a lot 45 feet by 70 feet was too small and he bought the lot behind his store from the church. This not only gave him additional depth but also alley access from Dividing Street. In 1806, he also bought a small lot on Dividing Street from the Lemmons. Rider was equally hungry for land on Dividing Street south of Bridge. He bought three parcels in order to get a usable lot.



1818 Salisbury plat by Jacob Morris



St. Peter's Street

Rider was a devout Methodist and was one of the trustees to whom Noah Nelms conveyed the land for what was to become the Asbury Church. With these purchases by Rider, you can see that the tide of mercantilism had spread as far east as Dividing Street north to Church Street and south to the mills.

The Methodist Church

On 22 August 1807, Noah Nelms signed the deed for the Methodist Church lot. This signified that the $50 purchase price had finally been fully paid. He conveyed it to the trustees for the Methodist Episcopal Ebenezer Chapel in the vicinity of Salisbury – George Parker, Jesse Townsend, John Rider, William Patrick, William Leonard, William Brewington Joseph Leonard Jr., James Parker and George Brewington. The deed says that the lot was a part of original Salisbury, and that it was partly in Somerset and partly in Worcester. Its beginning point was at the end of 22 perches on the third line of the aforesaid tract (the town line of Salisbury) and ran 45 degrees East 8 perches. This was the northeast corner of the town. The church later became the Asbury Methodist Church; the building is now the Faith Community Church.

Jay Williams, in his history of the church, *Asbury Church 150 Years After Salisbury*, 1928, says that "sometime prior to 1800 the Methodists had purchased the property." He adds that the $50 purchase price was paid in installments, that the church building was begun in 1801, and that the congregation did not wait until the lot was paid for to build on it. He also says that the church, "a small frame building painted red," was not plastered inside and did not contain a stove until 1818.

The first Mrs. Nelms, when she was living in Salisbury, is supposed to have been the local hostess for the first local Methodist service. It might have been on John Nelms' front lawn under the Baptist Oak.

The Poplar Hill Property

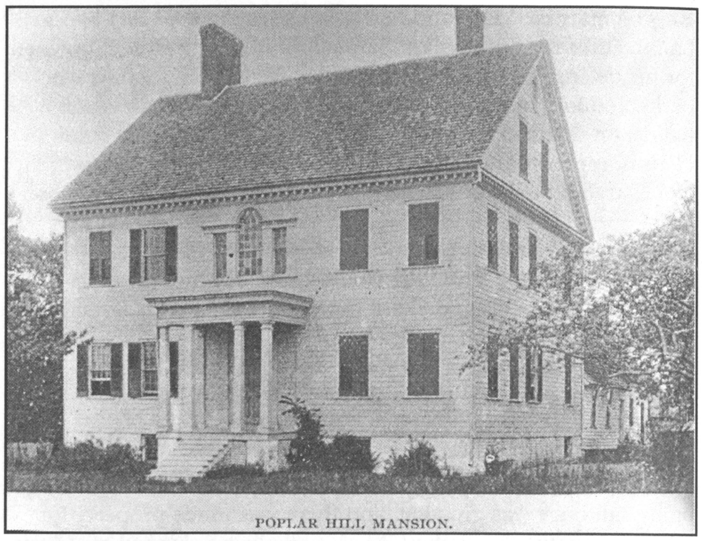
Levin Handy sold off two lots prior to his death – one to the surveyor who probably took the lot in lieu of cash in payment for his survey and the other to one Charles Dashiell. These lots were on the east side of Dividing Street well below the site of his future mansion that became known as Poplar Hill.

Levin had borrowed money from or purchased something from a George Sears, and after Sears' death, his executors sued Handy for the money. A writ of execution was filed and the property was sold at public auction on 31 March 1804 for 85 pounds, 13 shillings and 6 pence. The sheriff of Worcester County in due course executed a deed to the purchaser, Peter Dashiell, on 4 August 1804. Handy had died between 7 January and 16 August 1800. Then Dashiell conveyed the 228½ acres of Pemberton's Good Will to his brother-in-law, Dr. John Houston, on 27 July 1805. Dashiell had bought Levin Handy's wife's dower rights in the property for $300, so he was conveying good title of the whole to Houston. There is the question of whether Dashiell was bidding for himself or Dr. Houston. An examination of the graveyard records shows that Dr. Houston and his wife were both very busy on the day of the auction sale. His wife was delivering her second child, and the good doctor was busy being a husband or assisting at the delivery.

Who designed Poplar Hill Mansion? The answer seems to be that Levin Handy picked out the plans, since it is in the style of one of the old houses in Philadelphia, and he started the construction. But Dr. John Houston finished the mansion; this is proved by the obituary of Isabella Humphreys, one of Dr. John's daughters, in which the statement that Houston had purchased the mansion "then incomplete" appears.

Still on the Worcester Side

Titles to land on the Worcester side of the line were in turmoil. William Winder had given Levin Handy a deed for the property south of the road to Mitchell's Bridge, which had not been recorded. The purchaser at the Levin Handy sale wanted his title perfected. William Winder Jr. obliged.



POPLAR HILL MANSION.

John Pope Mitchell had sold Colonel William Chaille the property known as Race Ground, and Chaille had gone broke. This property was transferred twice and ended up in John Gunby's hands. Then James Fooks, son of Jesse Fooks, sold George Dashiell a lot 60 feet wide and bounded on the south by the properties of Hearn and Rider with no reference in the deed. Dashiell resold part of it to William Parsons and the rest to Captain Thomas Hooper.

James Fooks conveyed to his half-sister, Rachel Fooks, another lot north of a lot sold to William Nelson having a width of 100 feet.

Then, on 11 October 1806, William Winder sold a lot to William Hearn beginning at the underpinning of Hearn's Store and running to the northwestern-most corner of Eben Leonard's back house; both of them conveyed to Leonard a lot passing through a mathematical point 7 feet 6 inches south of the southeast corner of Leonard's house, with the privilege of extending his tankard and vats into the mill pond.

The Somerset Side

Margaret Bulgar of Baltimore sold John Moore the property where he operated an inn. He in turn sold the property, but not his garden, to John Gould on 30 September 1805.

In 1801, William Winder had sold Thomas Lane 19 acres of Sandy Plains located on the south side of the east branch of the Wicomico River. Sandy Plains was not then part of Salisbury.

On 14 March 1807, Isaac Hearn sold William Hearn the property he had obtained from the heirs of Hamilton Austin that contained 2,923 square feet of land on North Dividing Street.

The Nelms heirs sold James Powell a lot on Bridge Street that began at the southwest corner of the Catherine Tull lot. This is near where Church Street intersects with Bridge and fronted on both streets.

Eli Vinson sold William Caldwell a lot on the north side of Solomon Russell's lot on the north side of High Street. This looks very much like the sale of an adjusted lot in original Salisbury. It was a lot 85 feet by 165 feet and is where High Street comes close to the original street line of Salisbury.

About 1807, Dr. Robert Lemmon began letting his properties go. Whether because arthritis began to trouble him or premonition of a not-too-distant death, he began to sell when he could get his price. In addition to the parcels sold to John Rider, he sold one to Daniel Davis, the merchant who was also the minister of the Baptist Church in Salisbury and a co-religionist, and one to Isaac Hearn.

In the Haynie development along North Dividing Street, lots continued to be sold, some direct from Haynie and some on the resale market. Some of these indicated that there was a house built on the lot.

The expansion of the town was moving in all directions. The sale of 166 acres to Isaac Esham on the south side of the mill pond and extending east to the Snow Hill Road and the sale of a lot on the west side of the river by James Ritchie to the Dashiells marked the skipping over of the water barriers.

Politics

Dr. Robert Lemmon received one vote from Worcester County for presidential elector in 1800. Peter Dashiell was the Democratic nominee for elector for Thomas Jefferson in 1804, but Ephraim H. Wilson, the Federalist, defeated him 1,512 votes to 866.

Apprenticeships

On 19 September 1807, the apprenticeship of Levin Culver to James Powell to learn the tailoring trade is recorded. It was to last until his 21st birthday on 10 April 1813. The recording of a single apprenticeship leads to the speculation that there must have been many that went unrecorded. Not all boys followed in their father's or uncle's footsteps, and the birthrate was high.

William Winder Jr.'s Death

William Winder willed his mills to his daughters, Charlotte and Arietta. Charlotte was married to Henry R. Graham, who was a captain in the American Army, and had no use for the mills. Arietta was married to James Laird, an Episcopal minister in Princess Anne and also the headmaster of Washington Academy there. Laird was not averse to coming to Salisbury and the following year he bought out the Graham half-interest for $4,000.

Then Laird began a series of purchases designed to make the property better suited for his use. The first of these, from William H. Winder, was the lot on which the stable was built. The next was the property owned by John Hoffman, which was where he lived, in exchange for the four acres that Catherine Hoffman had inherited from her mother, Betty Scoggle-Meyer, and the third was a deed to William Williams Jr., a free Black, of land on the corner of Dividing and Back streets.

Richard Winder, Laird's brother-in-law, sold Laird for $100 part of the lot his father had left him on the east side of Dividing Street "formerly in use as a tavern by Ebenezer Leonard," and Ebenezer then bargained for the same rights he had had with William Winder Jr. in the Mill Pond.

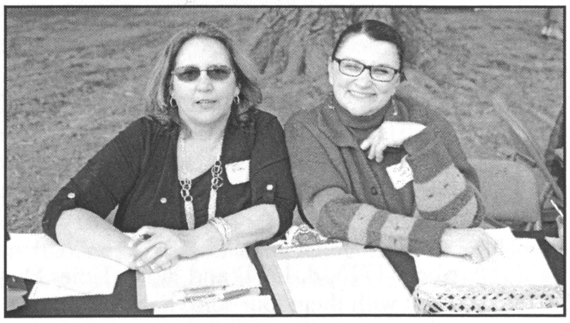
Richard H. Winder

Richard Winder sold two lots he had inherited from his father. He sold the lot on the north side of the Pond having a 90-foot frontage on Dividing Street and where the court house now stands to James Powell for $100. Powell resold half of it the same day to Levin Hitch. On 10 October 1809, Richard Winder sold to Jehu Parsons and Stephen Davis the lot near the bridge for $425. This was Jehu's first land purchase.

Volunteer Corner

A big THANK YOU to our wonderful volunteers whose activities include scanning archival materials, docenting exhibits, transcribing ledgers and diaries, entering data and conducting family history research. We are grateful for their help and dedication.

Community volunteers include Joe Ballou, Jefferson Boyer, Jane Burt, Bill Collision, Aleta Davis, Ruth Epstein, Albert Gordy, Lee Ann Griffith, Cathy Hudson, Dan Parsons, Paul Perunko, Marvia Perreault, Frank Rhodes, Nancy Robertson, Mary Starnes, Jan Taylor and Barbara Welsh.



Board member and volunteer Aleta Davis (right) at check-in table of Finney event along with staffer Pilar Burton.

The Haynie Brothers

By Linda Duyer

In 1941 and 1943, Ezekiel Haynie's great-great-great-granddaughter Doris Maslin Cohn published transcriptions of family letters in the *Maryland Historical Magazine*, letters found in "a little brass studded box, Dr. Ezekiel's Revolutionary medicine chest," a box from his days as a surgeon in the Revolution. There were no surviving letters written by his brother, Martin Luther Haynie, but it was clear that the brothers were close. In May 1787, Ezekiel expressed affection for Martin at the end of a lengthy letter.

> *"Betsy [Ezekiel's wife] directs me to speak for her as well as myself, when I tell you I love you and will always while I am..." signed E. Haynie.*

Cohn describes the life of Ezekiel, much of it spent as an adult in Snow Hill, with pride – his time in the Continental Army, his service as a Revolutionary War surgeon, a charter member of the Society of the Cincinnati, founder of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, prominent local physician in Snow Hill, and owner of the historic home called Olney in Princess Anne.

Martin Haynie is depicted by Cohn as "different in disposition, evidently of a bilious and depressed nature." Cohn noted Martin was said to bear a striking resemblance to Henry Clay. She further describes Martin based on the letters.

> *"We find him first as an instructor at Washington Academy, that ancient seat of learning on Back Creek [in Princess Anne] which was sponsored by Samuel Wilson, and had so many famous men pass through its doors, Luther Martin, Brackenridge, Laird and others. But his gown grew irksome and he failed when a candidate before Presbytery. Next we hear of his studying medicine in Philadelphia, then there are records of his taking holy orders in the Episcopal Church but never having a charge... Unhappy soul, he seems to have taught school, practiced medicine in various towns and never to have been satisfied ..."*

Martin may not have been a total failure, as one source records that he was ordained in 1788 by Bishop White and in 1789 became rector of All Hallows Parish in Worcester County. And while Martin was described negatively compared to his more successful brother, Cohn provided hints, along with the letters, to other aspects of Martin's character. Cohn noted, "Years later a niece writes that he was a very religious man but a member of no denomination." Cohn also wrote, "Having decided anti-slavery ideas, he ran counter to the current in most places."

It is not clear how and why the Haynies moved to Salisbury about 1764, from Northumberland County, VA, settling on property on the west side of the Wicomico River near Rockawalkin.

Samuel (b. about 1715, d. 1771) and Judith James Haynie (1725-1796) brought with them four sons: Samuel Jr. (1756-1795), Richard (1758-1789), Ezekiel (1760-1799) and Martin Luther (1763-1814), although there is the possibility Martin Luther was born in Salisbury. Two daughters were born at their Maryland home: Mary (who died in infancy) and Lydia. Samuel's father Richard was a lawyer in Northumberland County. From his father, Samuel inherited 80 acres of property back in Virginia. From his mother, he inherited two slaves and a chest of drawers. But the two brought their family to Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Ezekiel's letters to his brother (between 1782 and 1793) were full of the usual type of family descriptions. He berated his brother for not visiting often enough. In May 1785, while he was a bachelor in Snow Hill, Ezekiel also described his feelings of boredom and depression to his brother.

> *"I confess I have been a little disappointed in my expectations of having your company part of this last week. Perhaps it was not altogether convenient for you to come – I know your situation and therefore cannot censure you upon reflection. But, as I told you before I scarcely expect to see you here now during my stay; for, (to own the truth) I grow every day more weary of this dull and unhappy place; which has for its chief characteristics Discord in Society, Stagnation in Business, and Infertility of Soil. None of which can ever prove Sources of either comfort or happiness."*

Still, Ezekiel must have sensed it was just a mood, as,

> *"I know not whether dissipation is a necessary consequence of the properties I have mentioned as belonging to this place or not, but this I know that the incentives to it are more numerous and irresistible here, than I have met with elsewhere."*

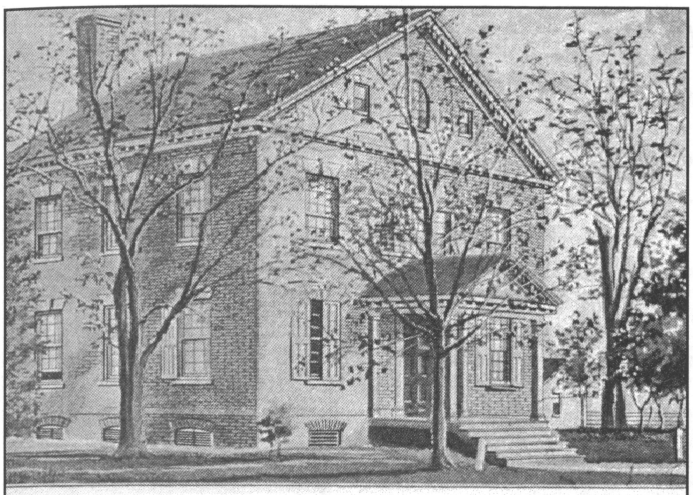
Life must have improved, for a year later, in May 1786, Ezekiel married into a prominent Eastern Shore family, to Betsy Bayly, the daughter of Esme and Sinah Polk Bayly, and began their family of six children. At the end of April, Ezekiel wrote his brother, writing of the preparations for the wedding and reflecting on the ups and downs of his moods while awaiting this marriage, "I find the truth of the saying, that nothing comes to us unmixt." And further to these feelings he wrote, "I think if there is any alteration in my Spirits, it consists in their being a little depressed, by reflecting on the vast importance of the matter before me."

Ezekiel began his marriage and family, but he would continue to want visits from his brother.

> *"Tho' I had much rather have seen you either here or in Somerset, as I thought myself entitled to expect. It would not, perhaps, be very easy for me to ascertain the cause, but it is no hard matter to discover that my friends will not be at much pains to give the pleasure of their company. One will come within a few miles of my dwelling and not call on me, another will not tarry a day or two to see me when he hears I am to be in the place where he is; while the rest will never come one mile towards the place where I live ..." (June 1788)*

Ezekiel seemed so hopeful for his brother's company, ending it with, "Will you come to see us in a week or two? I will send a horse if that should be an obstruction."

Throughout those years, Ezekiel's letters were full of mentions of their "Mamma, Brothers and Sisters," and concerns in particular for their mother, as their father had died in 1771.



DELAWARE CONFERENCE ACADEMY, PRINCESS ANNE.

Olney Mansion
History of Education in Maryland *by Bernard C. Steiner, 1894*

There were various local references. He mentioned their brother Samuel who sold tobacco. He described purchases of oysters and flour in Salisbury and visits to their mother. And in 1787, he wrote, "At Easter I was at Salisbury Fair, where I saw All our brethren …"

The June 18, 1788, letter provided a glimpse of Martin's outspokenness on the issue of slavery. Apparently, Martin had previously told Ezekiel of an argument that occurred in the presence of Josiah Bayly (Betsy's brother), at a time when Martin was in Manokin near Princess Anne.

> *"I did not hear Josiah Bayly say anything about your having offended Mr. Denwood Wilson, but if I recollect you told me what you said to him & his remark upon it. How he came to suppose you meant Mr. Jones I cannot guess; I never heard the most remote hint of his driving his people so hard, or that he was charged with too much Industry. You know my sentiments upon the Matter of your dispute with Mr. Wilson, and will easily Judge what my opinion is of your Conduct. I am not of the most ductile Metal, but I do not know whether I should voluntarily engage in a difference of this kind with a people who would not likely to hear Reason, or even the pathetic voice of Human Misery, when it tended to diminish their Idol Property. But considering the accidental manner in which you were drawn into it you are certainly in the right to defend yourself, even against the most dignified Characters in the State, if you had such to contend with.*
>
> *"The mention of your dispute reminded me of a story I saw not long ago in the Museum. A number of Gentlemen were at a Dinner in Philadelphia, when one of them happened to say he thought it right to hold Slaves. Another immediately rose from the Table in a violent passion and Stamped about the floor, declaring a person of his sentiments was not fit to live &c &c. The Host who was a sensible Schotchan, laid hold of him, and exclaimed 'Ho'd Ho'd Man, ye cannot set the World to rights, set down to your Soup.' It is necessary a reflecting Mind should be supplied with a good deal of Patience and forebearance to enable it to resist the numerous temptations that it must often be under to inveigh against the flagrant vices and excesses of the times. As to the sacrifice you make of a friendship of a certain Person, I esteemed it less than none at all; for abstracted from property, He is as insignificant as I think any Man can be. I hope, as it has happened that it will be productive of some good; and I really think it likely to be so. For people do not like for their crimes to become too public."*

There would be little doubt that Denwood Wilson was pro-slavery. In his will, probated in 1803, Denwood bequeathed 62 slaves to family members.

Martin factors into the history of Salisbury as having established "Haynie's Settlement," a tract of land north of Lemmon Hill in Salisbury purchased in 1794, in what is now known as the historic Newtown neighborhood. Roughly a dozen lots from that property were sold within the next few years. Some of the properties are listed in the direct federal tax assessment of 1798. It is not clear if Martin lived there, as he owned an unimproved parcel there at the time of 1798 assessment. He may well have purchased the property as an investment.

Ezekiel built and moved his family into "Olney" in 1798, but he and his wife did not live long to enjoy it. Perhaps one of the saddest documents that can be found is that of the surviving family bible. The birth of their sixth child Betsy Bayly Haynie was recorded as July 16, 1798. Then it appears that Ezekiel recorded their daughter's fate of losing her mother Betsy who died in April 1799. Following the entry of their daughter's birth, Ezekiel wrote:

> *"And left at the age of nine months and ten days a helpless orphan, being deprived of a mother whose tenderness, care, judgment and exertions in her management of children have seldom been equaled, perhaps never surpassed. Her sol delighted in virtue and benevolence and her life was devoted to pursuits of piety and usefulness. She had a mind clear and composed, a temper sweet and accommodating, a heart warm and sincere, and principles correct and well settled. Hence, her conduct was directed by good sense and prudence, her temper seldom ruffled by passion of any kind, her attachments sincere and lasting, her manners easy and remarkably unaffected, and the duties of the several relations she sustained discharged with uncommon proficiency and assiduity.*
>
> *"Such was the person to whom a very early attachment and afterwards the most endearing connection united the heart of the now bereaved and wretched writer. .... E. H."*

Ezekiel died September 6, 1799. His passing was recorded, but it was Martin who completed the family history.

> *"The child whose birth is recorded above, whose features and serene, happy, temper bore a striking resemblance to those of her excellent Mother, died September 27th, 1799 (Three weeks after her father) aged 14 months and 11 days. Her remains were Interred with those of her parents…." Signed Martin L. Haynie.*

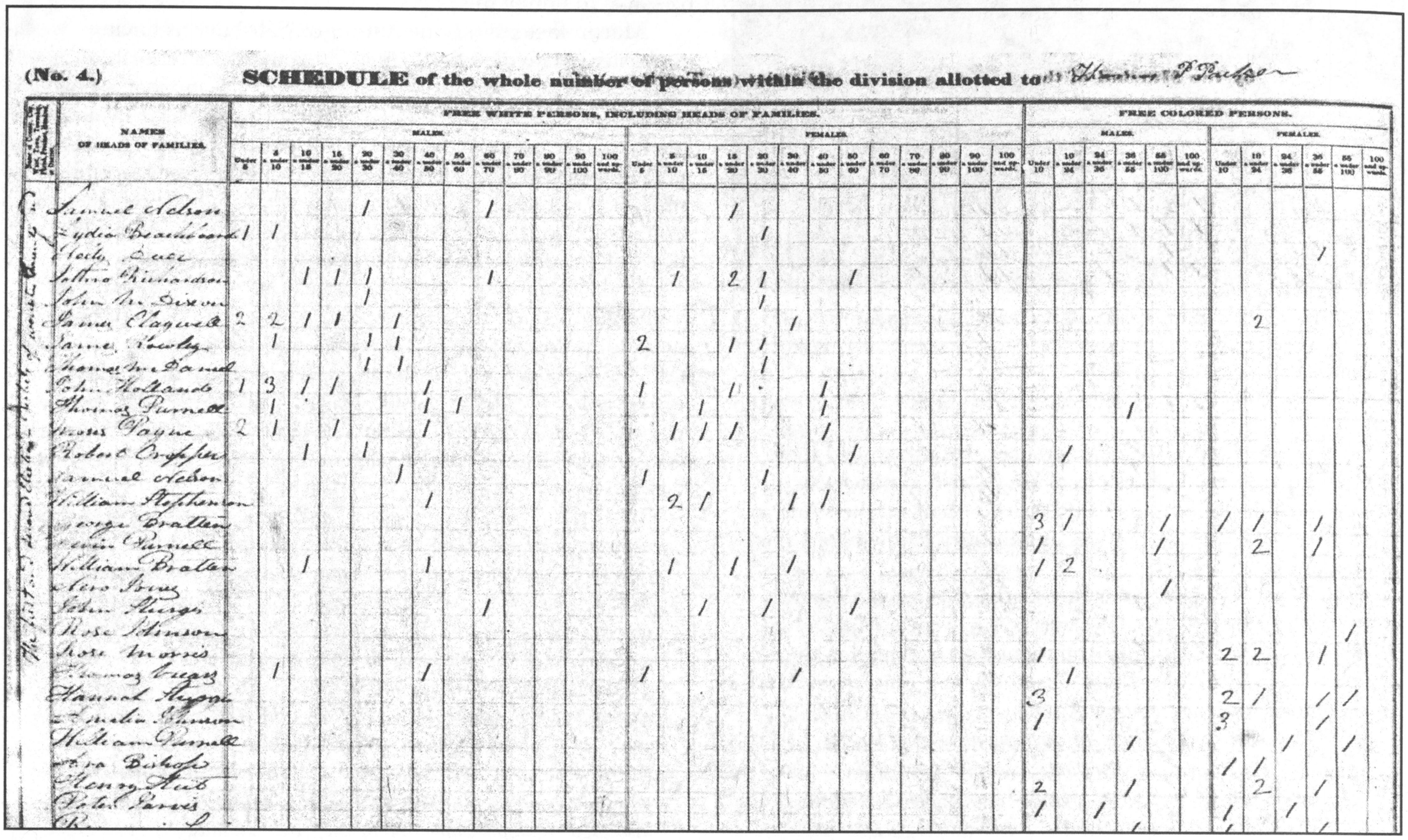
"Olney" was eventually acquired by what is now the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Martin died later than his brother, but it is not entirely clear where and when, the history confused somewhat by the fact that there was a family member named after him. One can only imagine how Martin felt as he fulfilled his duty of completing his brother's bible and mourned the loss of his brother's presence and affections.

Linda Duyer, a local historian, is the author of several books about Salisbury history and is a frequent contributor to *Shoreline* and local newspapers.

◆ ◆ ◆

Day Book Discovery: The Thomas A. Spence Store Ledger of Snow Hill, Maryland, 1838-1839

Compiled by Mary O. Klein



(No. 4.) SCHEDULE of the whole number of persons within the division allotted to

NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES.

FREE WHITE PERSONS, INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES.

MALES. FEMALES.

FREE COLORED PERSONS.

MALES. FEMALES.

1840 Federal Census Worcester County showing Hutt, Purnell and Bratten

What would it have been like to have lived in Snow Hill in 1838? Do you picture a sleepy, isolated place populated by pioneer men and women more worried about survival than about national politics and social problems? Do you think of an Eastern Shore version of *Little House on the Prairie*? Perhaps it is time to revise your assessment! Strangely enough, my ideas about Snow Hill in 1838 were radically revised by studying a surprising and common book: the day-book of a general store.

In the autumn of 1991, while doing the routine work of cleaning out and accessioning the contents of a store-room safe, Alice Paterra, the curator of the Julia A. Purnell Museum in Snow Hill, MD, came across an account book from a general store in Snow Hill. Excited by the discovery, she brought it to the attention of the director of the museum, John Verrill. As they pored over the long, leather-bound book, they discovered it was a day-book from the general store owned by T.A. Spence and dated 1838. One of the customers was the Nassawango Iron Furnace, which still stands as an historic site about 5 miles outside of Snow Hill. Verrill and Paterra called Kathy Fisher, the Furnace Town director, and told her of the find. As the excitement grew concerning the daybook, Sylvia Bradley and Ray Thompson, directors of the [Nabb] Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at then Salisbury State University, were called in and a collaborative project began.

What can be learned from a hard-to-read store book filled with the names of unknown people buying unheard-of items? Scholars have become more interested in what these often-ignored sources of information have to say to today's researchers about often-ignored people – the common people of an area. Combining the information in the day book with other documentary materials – newspaper accounts, census records, marriage records and wills -a portrait of Snow Hill as an antebellum town immersed in the politics, social movements and economics of the emerging new nation can be drawn.

Snow Hill was a busy port in 1838 and the schooner *Maryland* as well as her captain Daniel Ladd were both customers of T.A. Spence. The sailing schooner was used mainly to carry goods back and forth between ports, so by the dates the purchasing agent for the schooner came into the general store, an idea of its sailing timetable can be formed. Between July 14 and 24, five trips to the store were made. Then on August 1, the agent made another purchase, followed by two visits the first week in September and five visits in the middle of October. It appears that the schooner docked in Snow Hill about once a month and while she was there a few necessities were taken on board. For maintenance, linseed oil, canvas, putty, lamp oil, turpentine, white lead, lamp oil, nails, a chisel and draw knife were purchased. Some food staples – meal, sugar, molasses, coffee, butter, salt and vinegar – were kept on board, as well as a few miscellaneous items: tin cups and basins, candles, bowls, a corn broom, a white pitcher and one blank book.

Few people paid cash for the items purchased in Mr. Spence's general store; instead, they ran up a bill over the months and paid only a few times a year. And the things they bought: silk umbrellas, kid gloves, champagne, fiddle strings, cigars, toothbrushes, cologne and shoe buckles to name a few. Of course, more mundane items were sold as well: calico, chewing tobacco, coffee, canvas, sugar, crackers, molasses, salt, flour and corn meal.

Nassawango Iron Furnace

Apparently, T.A. Spence bought the sloop *Farmer* because in October she appears in the daybook having his customer number 137. Because he needed to buy goods for his general store as well as ship the iron ore from the furnace, buying a sailing vessel was probably more economical than hiring one when he needed it. There are only a few entries for the ship, all at the end of October. Staples were being purchased in the form of molasses, sugar, coffee and pepper. Rope, paper, lamp oil, matches candles and bushel baskets also were bought for the sloop.

Not only did T.A. Spence run the general store in Snow Hill, he owned the iron furnace as well. Interestingly, he sold goods to the furnace from his general store and added 5 percent to each bill. Furnace Town had its own little store, which then sold the goods to the workers.

The Nassawango Furnace used Spence's Snow Hill store as a supplier for their own general store. Between April and November 1, 1838, over 135 different entries for supplies were made, not to mention cash advances and money put on account for payroll. The biggest category for purchases was fabric. Domestic, bed tick, linen, beavertine, calico, painted lawn, domestic canvas, twill Jones, muslin and cambric were all purchased in great amounts. On September 27, 1838, the big winter fabric purchase was made. Domestic was the term used for the fabric that was made into sheets, towels and curtains, being coarse cotton that came in black, brown or bleached varieties. The furnace bought over 1,290 yards of domestic in September 1838, 936 yards in brown and the remainder bleached. Over 520 yards of calico were purchased at the same time, along with lesser amounts of lawn, linen, bobbinet, cambric, satinette, canvas and book muslin (a sturdy, stiffened cotton used as either lining or in book binding). To go along with the fabric purchased, pins, thread, hooks and eyes, and buttons were laid in. One hundred pounds of shot and a keg of powder were bought as well as 140 pounds of tobacco and 21 dozen bottles of snuff, 364 pounds of coffee, five dozen pairs of suspenders, as well as cloves, peppermint and 24 bottles of boot blacking. How many people was the general store at Nassawango supplying? Eighteen hundred yards of fabric is a tremendous amount of material! At the peak of its production, the best estimates are that about 500 people lived and worked at Furnace Town in small 1 ½-story houses built for the workers. Iron ore production was at its highest about 1840, but by 1847 when T.A. Spence sold it, the poor quality of iron ore had caused the owner to lose his considerable wealth and the furnace to be shut down. But in 1838, Furnace Town was a bustling little community that depended on its general store for essentials. Molasses and loaf sugar, coffee and matches were offered for sale. In October 1838, 742 pounds of bacon was purchased, and in June 262 pounds of hog jowls, 400 pounds of pork shoulder and 38 pounds of hams were stocked, but no other kinds of meat. Irish potatoes, crackers, a bushel of flour and 103 pounds of butter were the only other food items purchased. A few medicines were kept on hand: Rowand's Tonic Mixture, Saratoga Powders and a gallon of whiskey. A few luxury items were purchased: 3/8 yard of silk velvet, a looking glass, a sugar dish, a set of china and a pair of gloves. Five dozen pairs of boots were bought to sell to the workmen, nine pairs of shoes and 15 pairs of Morocco shoes. One dozen caps, a long-handled shovel and a keg of white lead, as well as an 8 x 10 piece of glass and a 3-gallon stone jug were a few of the miscellaneous items stocked. Five hundred bricks were purchased by the Furnace, perhaps to repair chimneys, lay the stable floor or build the large oven. Perhaps the most puzzling item purchased by the Iron Furnace was 375 pounds of iron. The finished iron was used in the blacksmith shop.

Many of the men who made up the oligarchy that ran

Snow-Hill Messenger.

Worcester County and Snow Hill were customers at T.A. Spence's store. His customer list reads like a "Who's Who" of the political elite and businessmen of the area. Of course, the Spences themselves topped the list. Newspaper articles from *The Snow Hill Messenger* and the *Borderer*, also from Snow Hill, tell us something about these movers and shakers. T.A. Spence himself was appointed to attend the national Whig convention that nominated William Henry Harrison and John Tyler for president and vice president. Later, T.A. became a judge himself and, being active in national politics, won an appointment as assistant attorney general of the U.S. Post Office Department. T.A. Spence's father was a physician and his uncles were lawyers, judges and a U.S. Senator. Ara Spence, T.A.'s uncle, was the chief justice of the 4th Judicial District whose court convened in Snow Hill. He was also an active member of the Colonization Society. Johnson Gray was a lawyer and surveyor as well as a county commissioner who ran for the General Assembly. He, along with other businessmen, formed a company to build the Atlantic Hotel where he served as a company director.

Other customers included Hopkins Purnell, who was a constable, and Jocob Wonnell, a commissioner. David Hopkins was a county commissioner, bank director and an officer of the Atlantic Hotel Company. Gordon M. Handy was an attorney and active in the Temperance Society as well as being clerk of the court and the county commissioners and a director of the New Atlantic Company. Joshua Bevans was a manager of the Temperance Society at Nassawadox and was 61 years old at the time of the 1838 day book entries. His sister, Barsheba Tull, was also a customer and left him $50 in her will in 1846. By 1850, Joshua Bevans was living with his son Rowland Bevans, whose aunt Barsheba also left him $50 in her will along with a looking glass and breakfast table. Rowland was a farmer who lived in Atkinson's District of Snow Hill and was on a district political committee. By 1860, his real estate holdings were worth $7,500 and his personal property $5,200.

Charles T. Rew, a frequent customer at the store, was an interesting resident of Snow Hill. He was ambitious and young in 1838 when his name first appeared in Spence's daybook. Charles had been born in Virginia and was only 18 years old and anxious to establish himself as a businessman and hard worker. By early 1839, he had begun to advertise in the newspaper for his blacksmith shop. "My arm is my work" his advertisements read, appearing in every issue of the paper. On July 18, 1839, Charles married Miss Mary L. Nairne, another of Spence's customers, who was six years his senior. Soon his blacksmithing business expanded into a coach, gig and harness shop. In the 1840 census, the 20-year old Rew owned three slaves and had two young men working for him. By the time he was 40 years old, Charles had earned the respect of the society in which he lived, for he was listed as a constable in the 1860 census with real estate worth $1,800 and an additional $500 worth of personal property. It was still possible for a hard-working, ambitious young man to make a place for himself in small-town Maryland society.

Edward Dymock was 22 years old in 1838, and by 1850, he owned a hotel in town and had a wife and five children under 10 years of age. His father had been active in the Temperance Society and a Trustee of the Poor and had left Edward two houses in his will of 1848, perhaps enabling him to buy the hotel.

Samuel R. Smith was a constable and a candidate for the House of Delegates. In 1839, he was appointed Register of Wills and owned a hotel in Snow Hill on Market Street. Joseph Givens was another customer who had married in 1832 and was a hat maker in town. But in 1834, Mr. Smith leased his hotel to Joseph Givens who ran ads in the newspaper for the hotel's accommodations and tavern facilities opposite the court house.

Teagle Townsend was another young man who moved into Worcester County and made a name for himself. In his case, he had a helping hand because he married Elizabeth Bevans, of Snow Hill, in 1830. He had lived in Princess Anne in neighboring Somerset County, having engaged in the blacksmith and carriage making trade. In 1834, he sold his business and moved. In 1838, he was a customer in Spence's store, and by 1839, he was appointed a delegate to a convention in Salisbury to select a person to represent the Congressional District at the Whig General Convention in Harrisburg that was going to nominate the presidential and vice presidential candidates. (They chose T.A. Spence!) By 1850, he was register of wills and had five children. By 1860, at the age of 59, he had attained the "gentleman farmer" rank with $30,000 worth of real estate and $14,000 worth of real property, with three more children: from blacksmith to gentleman farmer!

William H. Marshall was a 35-year-old customer at the Spence store in 1838, and early in the next year, he announced his candidacy for the next "sheriffalty." In July, he took over the New Hotel from Mr. Givens and won the sheriff's election in October. His opponent was defeated by a count of 1526 to 666, although the opponent, Mr. Williams, had already withdrawn. In December, he announced his retirement from business, presumably to begin the sheriff's job. Mr. Marshall and his wife Ann had six children by the 1850 census, but the family did not appear in the 1860 census.

Apparently a philanthropist of sorts, Dr. Chessed Purnell allowed the Methodists in the area to hold their annual camp meeting for the Snow Hill Circuit on his land for many years. Although a physician, this customer had political ambitions. He was a candidate for the Maryland Senate in 1831 and ran and was elected to the General Assembly in 1833. Rounding out his political career, he was appointed judge of the Orphans Court in December of 1839.

Samuel Richardson was a constable who also owned the sloop *Mediterranean*. William Tingle was a judge of the county court. There were sailors, clergymen, merchants, farmers, blacksmiths, tavern keepers, shoemakers and school teachers who bought goods from Spence's general store.

Another man who started over again in Worcester County was Louis Pessier. In 1832, his name appears in the Somerset County newspaper more than once as an insolvent debtor, but an ad placed on February 7, 1837, in the *Snow Hill Sentinel* advertised his business as a cabinetmaker. T.A. Spence extended credit to him along with his other customers, and his purchases attest to his trade: screws, nails, glue, turpentine, chisels and tacks.

Of the 237 customers listed in Spence's day book between May and December 1838, only 30 were women. Many of the items purchased by men were ribbons, fabric and women's articles of clothing – shawls, gloves, stockings, corset strings. Also many items usually reserved for feminine taste (china, pots and pans, patterns, tumblers, tea pots, hair caps) were purchased by men, leading to the assumptions that most women did not get to the store very often. On more frequent trips to town by men, they filled the women's shopping lists. Some of the 30 women listed in the day book were wives of men with accounts, because the same account number was used to charge the purchase she made in person. Mrs. M.S. Spence came in quite frequently and used her husband's account number. Generally, she purchased fabric and notions, although she also bought cinnamon, rice, nails and a pen knife. Some were specifically listed as "Miss" (Miss Ann D. Wilson), some only listed first and last names (Sally Richardson, Sally Moore), some were noted Mrs. Ann Holland or Mrs. Nancy Handy. Mrs. Thomas Rounds had an account number and Thomas Rounds had a different number. Some had no account number at all. Of the 30 women listed, information can be found about very few of them. Eleanor Latchum was listed in the 1840 census as head of a family that consisted of one free white woman between 20-30 years of age, one between 40-50, and one between 50-60, as well as one female slave between 10-24. Sally Moore was listed in the 1840 census as being between 40-50 years of age, with two young children and three girls between 10-15, also with three slaves. In 1850, her age was listed as 85 and two 20-year old girls and an 18-year old boy lived with her. Apparently, she ran a small school from her home on Federal Street in Snow Hill in the 1840s. In the 1838 store accounts, she bought fabric and food staples (flour, molasses, pork, crackers, butter and salt) as well as hair caps and a pen knife. Sally Richardson was a frequent visitor to the store, so she must have lived very close by. She was listed next door to Sally Moore in the 1840 census in a household with three small children, two young men, one young girl and one free black female between 10-24. Sally Richardson was between 40-50 years old at that time. Few clues can be found as to her occupation by her buying habits. She came into the store nearly every day and purchased everything from necessities to fur caps and tortoise shell combs. On two occasions, she purchased slates, and she also bought book muslin, paste board, a copy book and paper. On September 1, she was given $10.60 for the school bill. She helped Sally Moore with her school. Sally Richardson also frequently purchased fabric and notions, so perhaps she earned her living as a seamstress. (Apparently her one weakness was tobacco, an item she purchased frequently.) No newspaper information can be found about these women customers, leaving them to be fairly anonymous and behind-the-scenes players in the reconstruction of 1838 Snow Hill society.

At least six free black men were also customers at T.A. Spence's store. In the practice of the time, "Negro" was written after the customer's name and customer number of four of the six individuals. One, George Spence, had the same name as a white customer so perhaps the notation was for identification. In the 1840 census, Henry Hutt, Levin Purnell and George Bratten were living next to each other and their household consisted of free black males and females. Henry Hutt even owned three male slaves! All of the six received the same credit allowances as the other customers, but bought very few items. Only one, Henry Stephenson, received cash advances, five times for a total of $13. All the men bought mostly necessary items: nails, fabric, shoes, rice, molasses, sugar, coffee, ribbons, hose, buttons and thread gloves. Henry Hutt bought a saddle and girth and Peter Bishop purchased an umbrella. An interesting note is that although each of these people came into the store about once a month and generally only purchased one item at each visit, only once did more than one of these black men visit the store on the same day. On July 17, George Spence, Henry Hutt and Henry Stephenson all came into the store. Otherwise, although at least three men lived near each other, they never visited the store on the same day.

Many of the customers at the General Store were members of temperance societies, missionary societies and Bible societies, all of which were growing national movements of the day. Even the Colonization Society, formed to establish an African homeland for freed slaves, was active in town. Snow Hill enjoyed a busy literary club, the Union Academy, churches, political parties and newspapers that were full of national and international events and political news as well as local happenings. Steamboats and sailing vessels plied the waters of the Chesapeake Bay on a weekly basis, making travels to Baltimore a common occurrence and providing opportunities for the exchange of ideas.

Mary O. Klein wrote this paper while a student at Salisbury during the 1990s. Putting her study of history to good use, she is currently the archivist at the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland in Baltimore.

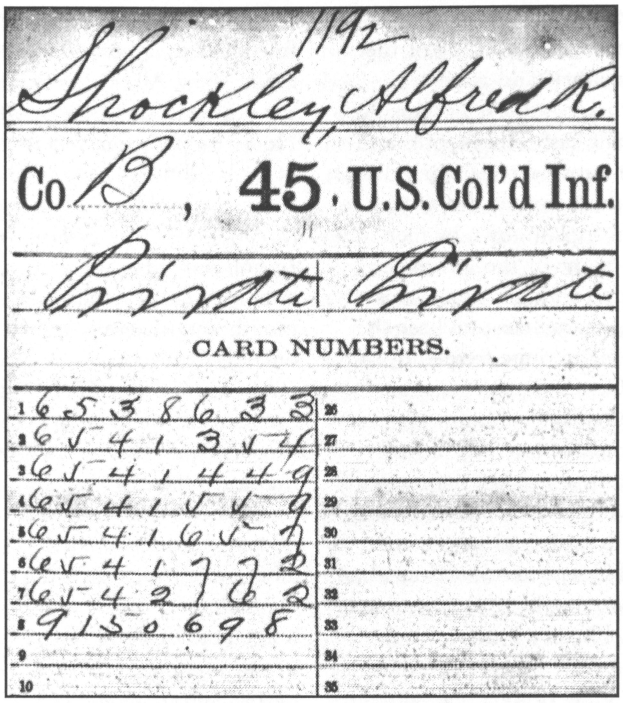
Rev. Alfred R. Shockley

The following article was originally printed in the Official Journal and Year Book of the Delaware Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (Fifty-Ninth Session) held March 29-April 3, 1922 *as a memoir or obituary of the subject of the article. These journals are an excellent resource for researching African-Americans of the area who were affiliated with the M.E. Church.*

Rev. Alfred R. Shockley son of the late Jesse and Diana Shockley, was born in Broadkill Neck near Milton, Delaware, Sussex County [Delaware], January 18, 1849.

He was converted at an early age and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was conscious of a divine call to the christian ministry in his youth. And often in warm weather when working in the field, while resting his horse at the end of the furrow would be found studying his Bible.

Though himself free born, he realized the condition of his brethren and at the age of fifteen ran away to enter the service of his country. He enlisted on June 7, 1864 Company B. Forty-fifth Regiment of U.S. Colored Infantry. He was discharged on Feb. 24, 1865.



1192

Shockley, Alfred R.

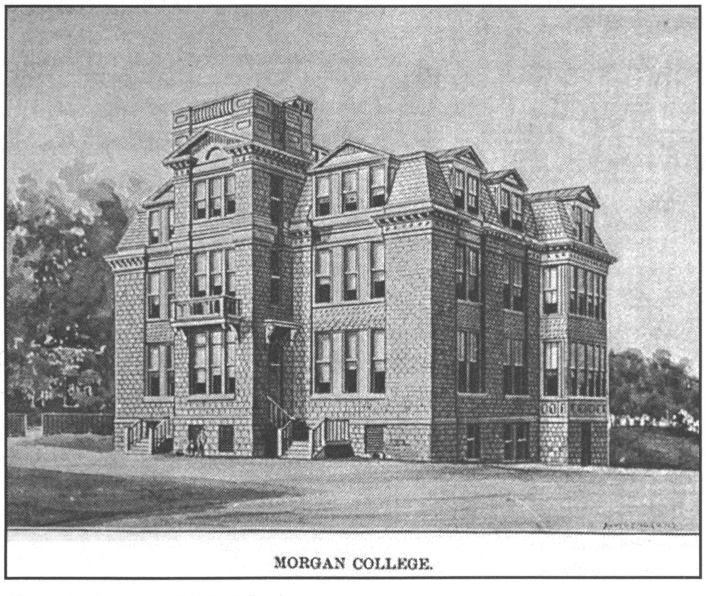
Co B, 45. U.S. Col'd Inf.

Private Private

CARD NUMBERS.

1	6538633	26	
2	6541354	27	
3	6541449	28	
4	6541559	29	
5	6541657	30	
6	6541772	31	
7	6542762	32	
8	9150698	33	
9		34	
10		35	

U.S.C.T. Military Service Records, 1863-1865



MORGAN COLLEGE.

Formerly Centenary Biblical Institute

Upon his return from the army, realizing the necessity of a thorough training for his calling, he entered the Centenary Biblical Institute, which is now Morgan College, Baltimore, Md. After completing his course at this Institute he taught school for several years. During this time he served as junior preacher under Fathers Wing and Philips.

In the year 1876 he was married to Annie Elizabeth Moore from which union there were ten children: Cora Virginia; Arensy Colwell; Bessie Lynn; Caley Warren; Alphonso Ward; Elwood Gracesconde; Alfred Goodsell; Jessie Lenora; Joseph Wardell; Andrew Fowler. Five of whom survive him.

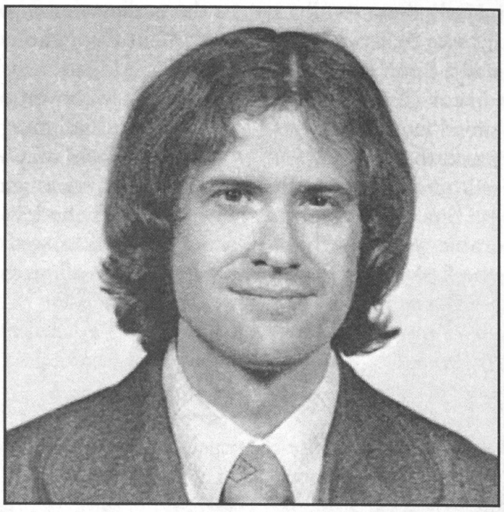
He became a full member of the Delaware Conference of the M.E. church in 1876 and served the following appointments; Passaic, N.J., 1 yr.; Laurel, Del., 2 yrs.; Germantown, Pa., 1 yr.; Bridgeville, Del., 1 yr.; Haven Phila. Pa., 2 yrs.; – transferred to Newark Conference M.E. church served in Paterson, N.J., 1 yr., returned to Delaware Conference of M.E. Church served Zoar church Phila., 2 yrs.; Chestertown, Md., 1 yr.; – transferred to New York East Conference of M.E. Church, New Haven, Conn., 2 yrs.; served Dover, Del., 1 yr.; Easton, Md., 3 yrs. He became District Superintendent of Salisbury district and served 6 years, District Superintendent of Phila. District 6 yrs., served Montclair 1 yr. Because of ill health he retired in 1905. In 1906 he became effective, served Smyrna, Del., 2 yrs.; Moorestown, N.J., 3 yrs. Retired in 1916, settled in Moorestown, N. J., became a member of Merchantville Quarterly Conference. For several years he served as trustee of his Alma Mater.

On the second Sunday in June he attended the morning service. In the afternoon he went to Zoar Mission. He was too ill to conduct the services but administered the sacrament. From that time he gradually grew worse, but never complained and was always concerned that the family should not worry. On Monday July 11, the doctor ordered him to Mercy Hospital. On the following Thursday, he remarked he was far enough to test the Jordan. He said "Its (sic) all right I left it all with Jesus years ago."

He departed this life Saturday July 16, at 3:30 A.M. He is survived by a widow, five sons, eleven grandchildren a host of relatives and friends to mourn their loss.

Thompson Retires from Salisbury University: Dr. G. Ray Thompson Reflects on His Life and Career on Delmarva

By Linda Duyer



Ray Thompson 1972

Dr. G. Ray Thompson vividly remembers his first visit to Delmarva, arriving in Salisbury in 1972 for an interview for a position in the History Department at what was then called Salisbury State College.

He flew into the airport at night and was met by his driver, a janitor from the college in his pickup truck with the right door held together by bailing wire. Thompson remembers Route 13 looking a lot different in that part of Salisbury than it does today – few businesses and looking desolate, particularly at night.

The next morning in the light of day he walked to campus from the Temple Hill Motel, noticing the beautiful homes along Camden Avenue. He was in awe of them with their Colonial style. And brick! "Brick houses were not something we had back in Kansas," said Thompson. That visit resulted in Thompson accepting a position at what became his home for nearly 45 years.

Now, at the end of June, Dr. Thompson stepped down from his career at Salisbury University, leaving the History Department and his position as Director of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture. As his last month there ended, Dr. Thompson paused to reflect on that career and the life that brought him to Delmarva.

Path to Academics

Thompson's early years paved his path to academics. His parents were farmers, dirt poor farmers, as Thompson describes them. Their farm was located outside of Almena in Norton County, KS, where the family had lived since the 1870s when his great-great-grandfather Greenville Thompson homesteaded the area.

Greenville apparently followed the migration west to Missouri at the time when the Midwest represented the frontier. Greenville and his family were present for the turbulent period known as Bloody Kansas. Greenville moved as a widower, taking a circuitous route to Almena.

"I went to a one-room country schoolhouse," said Thompson. In his class there were only two students – himself and a cousin; a brother and other cousins were in other classes. "It was like a family," until the 7th grade when he went to "what we called 'town school'" in Almena.

It was his grandmother on his father's side who instilled this interest in education. "All of her ancestors had been educators and ministers and farmers." She was remarkable; she obtained a master's degree in biology. "For a woman in the late 1800s and early 1900s to get an advanced degree was something." And his grandmother would write to him during his academic studies, usually every day, encouraging him and providing great descriptions of back home.

Thompson had not set his sights on a career in history right away. All he knew was that he did not want to be a farmer; and he assumed he would be going for an education degree. Fort Hays State College, about 100 miles away, was a teachers college. He thought this was his path, that is, until circumstances changed his mind. The dean of the Education School told him, "The purpose of education was to knock down those of you with the high grades." And the sole education class he took required the memorization of student names in alphabetical order as the requirement to pass the course. He quickly decided that was not for him and switched his major to history. That path led him to the master's and doctoral programs at Kansas University.

He thrived at Kansas University, taking on the requirement of five areas of study toward his doctorate, a wide range that was typical then, unlike today. His major area was in ancient Rome/Greece; his minor areas were classical archaeology, Greek and Latin languages, American Colonial history, and Tudor/Stuart history. The Colonial America curriculum was taught by Virginia historian W. Stitt Robinson. "He was teaching social and cultural history early on," before it became a bigger field. And Thompson loved it. That range of study and the evolving practice of researching Colonial history led to a solid foundation and interest that carried over to his position at Salisbury State College.

Early Days in the History Department

The early days in the History Department were heady and exciting times. At a time when other institutions where shrinking, Salisbury State College was expanding.

Soon after arrival, he and History Professor Sylvia Bradley began developing a new curriculum for students. As Thompson explained, "History students up until that time, until the late 70s, had basically come to Salisbury to become teachers, because it was the Salisbury State Teachers College." They wanted to prepare students for other opportunities.

The 1970s was a changing, turbulent time. "There was a lot of activity going on that was transformative across the country and many history students were no longer interested in becoming teachers, but they loved history and they wanted to know what they could do with their history degrees. So Sylvia and I decided we would work together to create what we called public history. We would show students how they could learn the craft of history and what they could do with a history degree that wasn't going to be in front of a classroom."

And they were given great leeway and academic freedom to do it. "It was a time of great freedom in terms of being able to develop courses and create curriculum that would engage the students. That's what we really wanted to do."

"We were really thinking outside the box by creating a whole set of courses based around local history," programs that people had not thought of as even being possible, as Thompson put it.

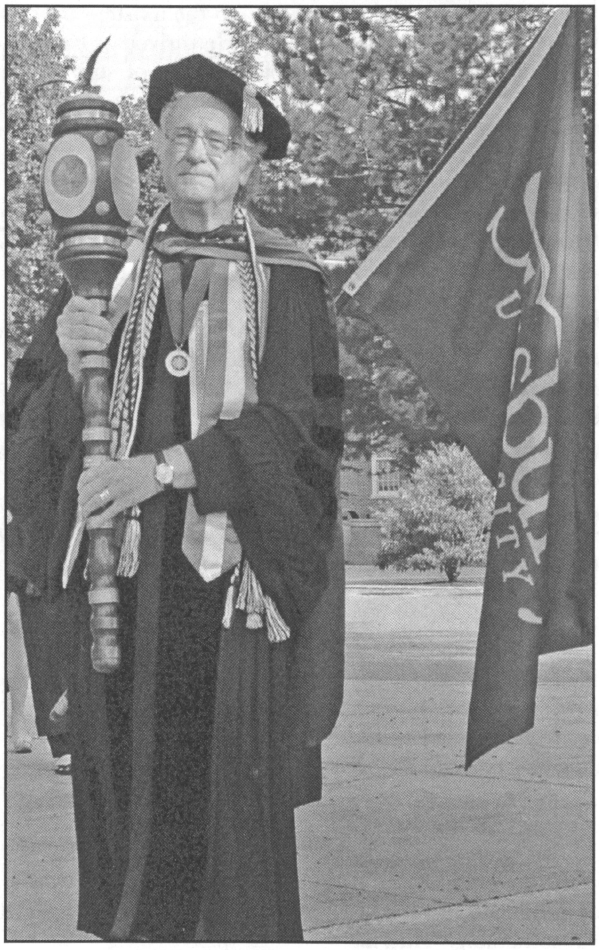
Students could take the skills anywhere, apply them to all kinds of research. "The whole premise of this was that you could use original documents; you didn't need to pull a book off a shelf that someone had written. You could create history itself."

What's more, said Thompson, at that time "faculty really bought into being a part of the community and the region." He was directed almost immediately to go out and engage with the community.

This brought about one his most memorable moments, his first assignment to speak to the community, the first of countless community talks he would make throughout his career. This was in October 1972; he had not even been here two months. The chair of the department, Dr. William Wroten Jr., told Thompson, "I want you to talk to the Worcester County Historical Society."

"Well," explained Thompson, "I didn't even know who the Worcester County Historical people were!" And this was before he started being immersed in local history and developing local history curriculum. He thought, "I'm an ancient historian, what's an ancient historian going to say at a banquet?" The banquet was an annual event of about a couple of hundred people dressed in their finest.

He was seated at the head table and one of the society members asked him what was going to be his topic that night. He had picked what he hoped would be an interesting subject about ancient women, in particular, Egyptian women. The woman looked at him dismissively and said, "What could you tell me about women?" Thompson still chuckles at this. Welcome to Delmarva.



Dr. G. Ray Thompson, mace bearer at fall 2013 Convocation

Academics and Personal Ancestry Converge

For the first three years in Salisbury, he viewed himself as a come-here, the term people of the Eastern Shore are known to use to refer to those not born in the area. Others use the term with a slightly expanded definition, for those who do not have deep roots on Delmarva. By any definition, Thompson was a come-here, as far as he knew.

"What was shocking to me was when I came here to Salisbury State College in 1972, I had no idea that I had ancestry here! I had absolutely no idea." He had been going about sharing the task with Sylvia Bradley of building a local history curriculum, unaware at that time that he had ancestors on the Eastern Shore dating all the way back to the earliest period of settlement throughout the region. Suddenly, academics and ancestry converged as if the stars were aligning.

Others here may well know the story. But the magical part of it was that this shadowed the academic path he was teaching his students. It all provided a personal dimension to the academics. The professor was now also the student.

"The earliest physical records of anyone on the Eastern Shore are the censuses of 1623 and 1624. And I have several ancestors who are listed in both of those," he said, incredulously.

Sarah Elizabeth Kelley Ennis

The revelation came in 1975 as he was unpacking boxes at the house near campus he and his wife bought, boxes that had not been opened since graduate school. An obituary fell out of a family bible, revealing his grandmother's grandmother, Sarah Elizabeth Kelley Ennis, who was born in 1824 in Snow Hill, MD. This was jaw-dropping.

As he continued researching his Eastern Shore roots, the numerous ancestral names he was finding became familiar because of his students. "It led me to realize that a lot of these students that I had been teaching were relatives of mine!"

And it was during his family search, as he browsed the wills in the courthouse at Snow Hill, he thought, "these wills are perfect, why isn't anybody using them?!" His search back in time led him to other courthouses. At Eastville in Northampton County, VA, he was awestruck by what he was seeing.

"There was this wealth of original records as far back as 1632, and nobody was using them, nobody had, as far as I could tell, recognized their value. They were certainly not being used as a way to interpret American history in an American history textbook, because it was the

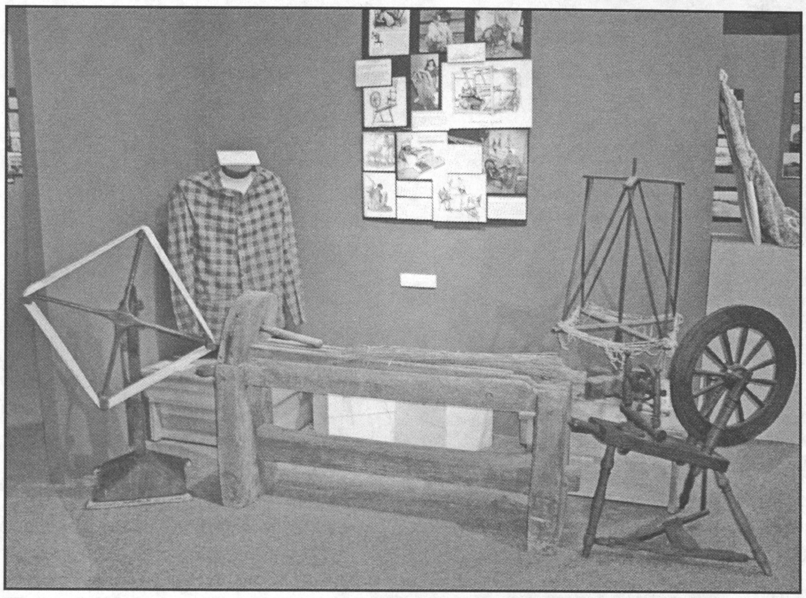
New England paradigm that everybody learned about; the early development of the Eastern Shore showed a very different paradigm." It was his hope that textbooks of early American history be re-written to reflect "the diverse social, political and religious" complexity of the country beyond New England, including Delmarva.

So his exploration was a family quest initially, but it coincided with the curriculum he and Sylvia Bradley were developing and their efforts to centralize these records.

Community of Volunteers and Donors

The development of the archives that became the Nabb Research Center flowed naturally from those early efforts.

The coursework requiring their students to use historical records meant that the students had to travel great distances to get their material. So he and others in the department began centralizing the primary records they began acquiring, including Dr. Polly Stewart's Folklore Archives in the English Department.



Taste of Salisbury *exhibit at SU's Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art*

The material first occupied a filing cabinet, then expanded into space in Holloway Hall, and eventually moved to the facility on Power Street. Together, he and Sylvia Bradley co-founded and co-directed what was initially called the Delmarva Historical Archives, later named the Research Center for Delmarva History, and in 1998 re-named in honor of Edward H. Nabb for his generous endowment.

But it was the students from those early classes who expanded the resources. Students were required to do sketches of early people of the area, and those students went out into the community to interview people who may have been descendants of the subjects of their research. Those community members became the first donors.

Those community members "would buy the microfilms and give them to us. That's where we got all those microfilm, the lion share of the nearly 4,000" that now take up nearly two walls of the archives. Because of that early student research, most of the original records were acquired by 1995.

And those community members gave much more. "All those microfilm machines were purchased by people who saw that this could be a real advantage for them; that they could use the materials as well as students – local people. Every single one of those machines, I can tell you who bought all of those machines for us, every one of them was purchased by the local people. All the microfilm readers." He paused, reflecting on those donors.

And the volunteers, Dr. Thompson remembers them all. Describing this impact on the Nabb Center, he said, "If it had not been for the volunteer students and people in the community and region, we would not be what we are today."

A New Chapter

And now Dr. Thompson retired from his academic career here on Delmarva at the end of June, only days before the Nabb Center moved into its home at the new Guerrieri Academic Commons on the University main campus.

In describing this transition, he mentions the 30 or 40 exhibits created by the Nabb Center over the years. He explains that the decision was that the exhibit panels will not be moved to the new facility because of space issues. All those images about the history of Delmarva, copies of originals, will not be saved by the University. So Dr. Thompson began giving the exhibits away, to individuals and organizations he felt could use them. That's a lot of exhibits.

One of those exhibits, called *A Taste of Salisbury: Voice of the Artifact*, displayed at the Ward Museum in 2009, drew a large audience. Dr. Cynthia Byrd, then a folklorist at the Ward Museum who helped install the exhibit (and now director of the Julia A. Purnell Museum in Snow Hill), said that exhibit was the single most popular ever held at the Ward Museum. "It touched a vein in people," said Byrd, who watched the enthralled visitors.

No one can be sure what the future holds for the Nabb Research Center or the History Department, but one can hope that people continue to be the focus of that future.

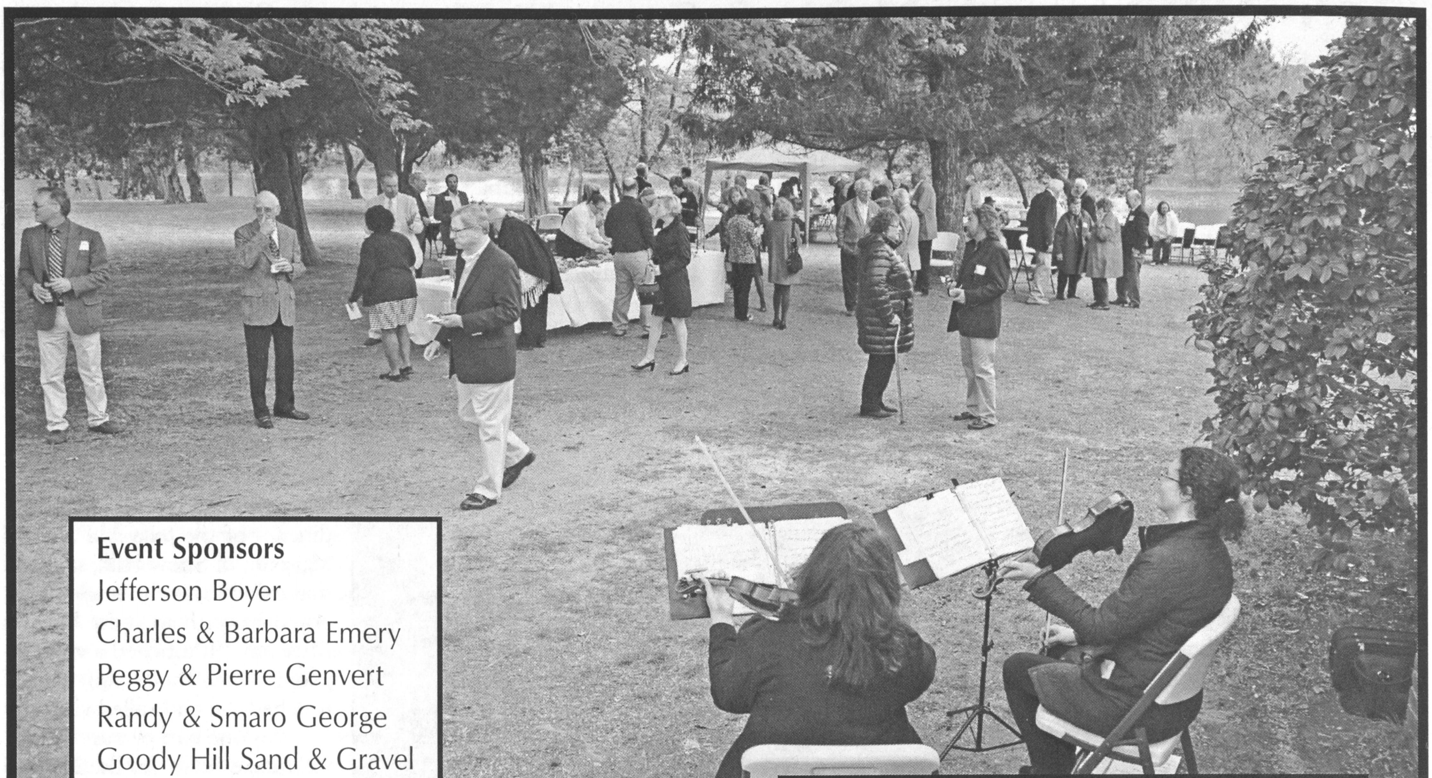
For Dr. Thompson, it has always been about people. Whether the ancestors in the stories of his youth, the people of Delmarva and their role in history, students, volunteers, and community members – it has been all about the people, past, present and future.

For nearly 45 years, Dr. Thompson has been the face most recognized as the go-to person for all things historical on Delmarva. That won't change. He has already accepted requests for his help with boards and projects, so many that he's had to start saying no so that he has enough time for many of his own long-delayed projects.

And, he's not going anywhere, he's staying on Delmarva. He has friends here and so many histories about people still to research. You could say he has history here. After all, he'll tell you with a wink, he has roots here.

Visit Duyer's website – http://delmarvachronicle.com. For more news and articles about local happenings, visit the Facebook page: A New History of Early Salisbury, Maryland to join the discussion.

Evening at Finney House



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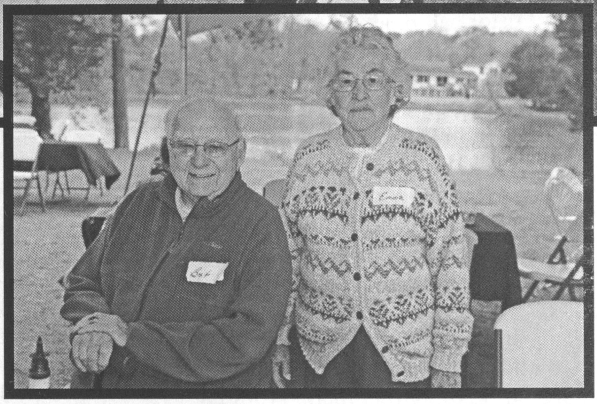


Bert and Emma Thornton

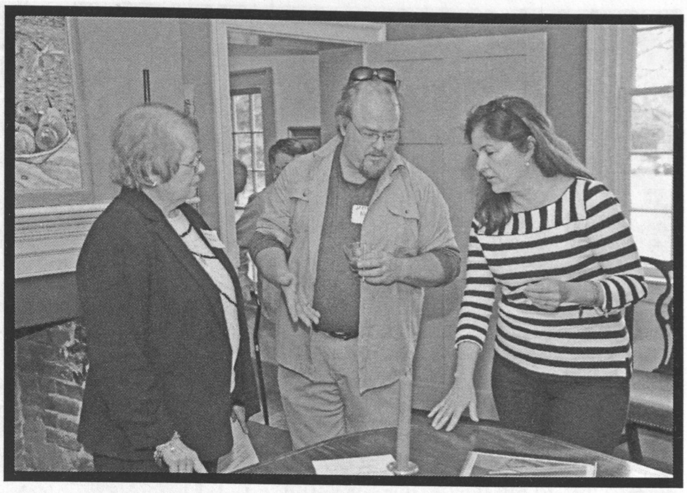
Our fundraising event, Evening at Finney House, was held this year in historic Onancock, VA, at the home of Laura Kerbin and Rick Matthews. Located on Parker Creek, the story-and-a-half home is situated on land patented by Jenkin Price in 1655. In 1666, the patent was assigned to Andrew Finne(y) whose descendant, Thomas W. Finney built the house is 1813. Thomas married Sarah Fletcher in 1819 and they had eight children, many of whom lived on the farm for decades. A Finney family graveyard is behind the house.

This year's event was dedicated to G. Ray Thompson, co-founder and director of the Nabb Research Center, who after 44 years of teaching history at Salisbury University, retired at the end of June. Under his leadership as the full-time director since 2007, the Center has hosted lectures and exhibits of interest to local schools and organizations and to the wider public. Research resources at the Center were greatly expanded.

To honor his years of selfless service and dedication to the community of history-lovers, proceeds from the event were deposited into the G. Ray Thompson Endowment Fund at the Salisbury University Foundation. We are pleased to announce that an exhibit room at the new Guerrieri Academic Commons on campus (where the Nabb Center moves in August) will be named in his honor. Additional donations to this endowment are welcomed; proceeds generated by the endowment will be used to support our mission of preserving and disseminating local history.

In addition to the contributors listed here, the board also thanks the community volunteers and Nabb staff and students who helped make this event a success.

J.D. Quillin, Debbie Bates, Ron and Debbie Sauder, Lenore Huffer, and Sandy Quillin



Carolyn Adkins and Jefferson Boyer with Laura Kerbin, owner of Finney House

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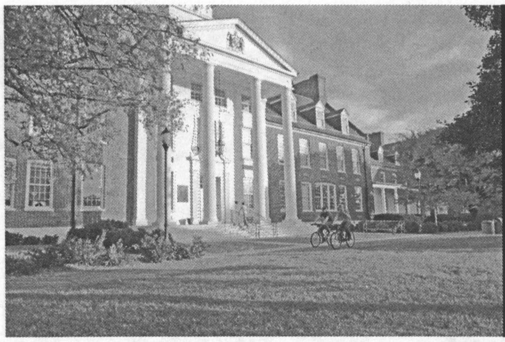

Salisbury
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CREATING YOUR LEGACY

Spotlight on Donors

Robert S. Withey, retired interior designer and fine arts and antique appraiser from Salisbury, MD, is a long-time believer of the importance of the preservation of local history. His activities include being the former curator of the Poplar Hill Mansion, many years of active membership in the Wicomico Historical Society and of serving on the Board of Directors of the Nabb Research Center. Even though he and his wife Trudy retired several years ago to Florida, they continue to promote and support the Nabb Center in numerous ways. He is a lifetime member of the Nabb Center, and he continues to serve as an emeritus board member. He has donated archival materials pertaining to the Jacob and Withey families and many other items relating to local history to the Nabb Center.

Rob and Trudy Withey at Sons of the American Revolution International Continental Congress, Louisville, KY, June 30, 2015. Rob is a member of the Naples Florida Chapter SAR and Trudy is the Certified Registrar and Honorary Regent of the Big Cypress Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Naples.

Rob and Trudy recently created a legacy gift at the Salisbury University Foundation to benefit the Nabb Center. The director's office at the Nabb Center in the new Guerrieri Academic Commons will be named in honor of Withey's uncle, John E. Jacob Jr., a noted local historian. Community and student visitors researching family or Delmarva history will see the name plaque displayed in his honor. The Guerrieri Academic Commons provides state-of-the-art preservation space for both archival materials and artifacts. Exhibit areas illuminating local topics and an extensive library for researchers are also contained within the new space in the building.

When asked for his thoughts about the Nabb Center and what people can do to help sustain it and its mission to collect and preserve local history, Withey said: "I hope people will be encouraged to donate local, historical materials to the Nabb Center to help preserve and promote the history and culture of Delmarva. It is critical that we give documents and artifacts to a place that will provide access to researchers and historians, as well as secure funding to preserve materials such as documents, Bibles, portraits and other things forever. Our children and grandchildren will one day want to know more about their family history, so it is critical that we donate local materials, which many of us have in our possession, and support them [the Nabb Center] financially, in order to restore and preserve our manuscripts and artifacts. Many people don't realize that what they have is important to others. My thought for the next generation is that they can't know where they are going unless they know where they came from."

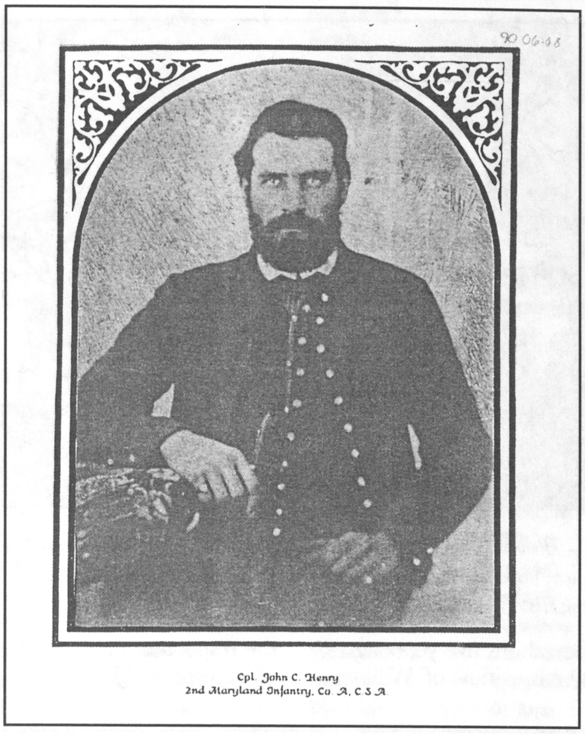
He suggested: "An estate gift can be created in your will or trust to protect our heritage by providing necessary funding. With our help, the Nabb Center will have the resources to preserve these materials, so our future generations can use them to study the history of Delmarva – their family history."

Many charitable giving options are available, such as giving a gift through your will/trust, making the Salisbury University Foundation the beneficiary of an IRA or insurance policy, or transferring appreciated stock. If you would like to donate now and receive fixed income for life, you can create a charitable gift annuity with very favorable interest rates, even exceeding 8 percent. You can donate a property to receive an immediate tax deduction, yet use it for the rest of your life. There are many possibilities and methods to support the Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture.

If you have items you would to donate to the Nabb Research Center, please contact the archivist, Leslie Van Veen McRoberts, at 410-548-2193 or lmvanveen@salisbury.edu. If you would like to talk about creating a legacy, please contact Donna Brittingham, SU Class of 1983, at 410-677-0084 or ddbrittingham@salisbury.edu.

Francis J. Henry

This article was originally published in 1898 in Portrait and Biographical Record of the Eastern Shore of Maryland Containing Portraits and Biographies of many well known Citizens of the Past and Present *by the Chapman Publishing Company.*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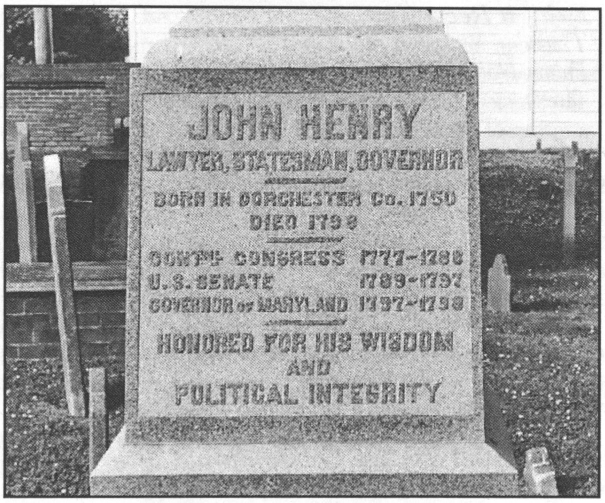
Cpl. John C. Henry
2nd Maryland Infantry, Co. A, C.S.A

Cpl. John C. Henry
2nd Maryland Infantry Co.A. C.S.A., son of Francis J. Henry

The subject of this review is one whose history touches the early history of Maryland and whose days have been an integral part of the indissoluble chain which links the early formative period with that of latter-day progress and prosperity. Not alone is there particular interest attaching to his career as one of the pioneers of Dorchester County, but in reviewing his genealogical record we find his lineage tracing back to the colonial history of the nation and to that period which marked the inception of the grandest republic the world has ever known. His grandfather, Hon. John Henry, was one of the most prominent factors on the stage of public life in Maryland in the latter part of the eighteenth century and he and Hon. Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, were the first United States senators to represent his commonwealth in the legislative halls of the nation. His father, John Campbell Henry, was also a leading and influential man. He wedded Mary Nevett Steele, and they became parents of nine children: John Francis, a lawyer of Cambridge, who died in 1833, James Winfield, a physician of Cambridge and Varina, who died in 1893; Francis Jenkins, the honored subject of this review; Catharine, deceased wife of Daniel Lloyd, of Cambridge; Isabela; wife of Dr. Thomas Steele, of Cambridge; Mary, wife of R.T. Goldsborough, of Cambridge; Rider who married Miss Sutherland, a niece of General Van Dorn, of Mississippi, and lives in Cambridge; Charlotte P., wife of Judge Charles Goldsborough; and Mary, who died in childhood.

Francis J. Henry was born August 13, 1816, and was reared on his father's estate in Cambridge. During his youth he was very fond of out-door sports and his love of hunting has remained with him throughout his entire life. He stills enjoys the chase and can bring down game at long distances without using his eyeglasses, although he is now about eighty-two years of age. He is the picture of a robust old age. His carriage is erect, his cheeks ruddy, his eyes sparkling and he presents the appearance and vigor of a man many years his junior. He possesses the courteous, chivalrous manner of the old school, is bright and entertaining in conversation and is a typical representative of the southern gentleman. In the affairs of the county he has been very prominent and has taken a deep interest in all pertaining to its welfare. He was educated in the classical department of Cambridge Academy, and at the age of seventeen began clerking in a well-known mercantile establishment of his native town. The following year he embarked in business on his own account and the enterprise proved very profitable. At the same time he successfully engaged in farming, operating his land with the aid of slaves. He owned forty negroes and by their loss through the Emancipation Act he lost $40,000. But with this exception his career has been a prosperous one and he now has adequate competency.

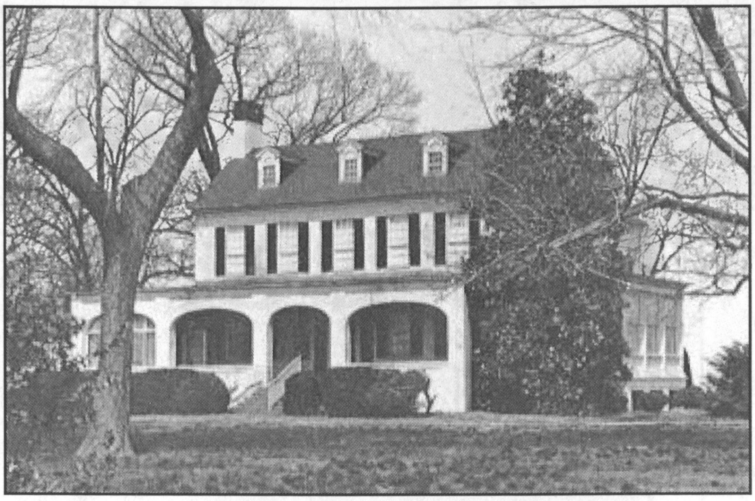
Descended from Maryland's best blood, it was natural to him to enter the realms of politics, particularly as he was in close touch with the industrial and social life of the day. He was drawn actively into the political field through the solicitation of Hon. Henry Page and ex-Governor Thomas H. Hicks, the war governor of Maryland, who succeeded in saving the state to the Union. In 1851, he became the first candidate for the office of clerk of courts, which was made an elective office by the constitution of 1850, and by continued re-election held that position for more than twenty-eight years, proving a most efficient, capable and trustworthy official. His popularity is well attested by the fact that he personally knew every voter in Dorchester County for many years. His attitude at the beginning of the war was that of an advocate of the Union. He raised a company of one hundred men and personally gave $1,000 for their equipment. His son, John Campbell, took charge of the company and rose rapidly in military distinction, but perceiving that the ulterior object of the war was the freeing of slaves, he resigned and joined the Confederate service. Our subject up to that time had been a Whig, but he now joined the Democracy, of


JOHN HENRY
LAWYER, STATESMAN, GOVERNOR
BORN IN DORCHESTER Co. 1750
DIED 1798
CONT'L CONGRESS 1777-1780
U.S. SENATE 1789-1797
GOVERNOR of MARYLAND 1797-1798
HONORED FOR HIS WISDOM
AND
POLITICAL INTEGRITY

Gravestone of John Henry (1750-1798), Maryland Governor at Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery, Cambridge, MD. (Findagrave.com) which he has since been an ardent advocate. He has always believed that slavery was constitutional and that the correct way to have changed the system would have been by constitutional amendment and by the purchase and liberation of the negroes by the United States government.

Mr. Henry was married August 9, 1836, to Miss Williamina Elizabeth Goldsborough, the youngest and posthumous daughter of Robert Goldsborough, and granddaughter of Charles Goldsborough, of Horns Point. They have nine children: Mary N., wife of John S. Spence, a farmer residing in Secretary, Dorchester County by whom she has eleven children; John Campbell, a manufacturer of New Orleans, who married Miss Lake, and has four children; Annie, widow of John Steele, who was murdered on the streets of Cambridge about five years ago and at his death left three children; Elizabeth, widow of William T. Goldsborough, of Baltimore and mother of two children; Williamina, widow of Daniel S. Muse, and mother of two daughters, now living with her father; Francis J., commissioner in chancery and auditor of the court of Dorchester County; Robert G., a lawyer, who is serving as postmaster of Cambridge, where he lives with his wife, formerly a Miss Muse, and their five children. Nicholas L., who was paymaster in the navy, but is now in the hydrographic office in Washington, where he lives with his wife, formerly Nellie Radcliffe, of Cambridge, and their five children; and Hampton, a farmer of Dorchester County, who married Miss LeCompte and has five children.

The Henrys were originally Presbyterians, but the family of our subject attend the Episcopal Church. Mr. Henry is one of the venerable and honored citizens of Maryland. Age rests lightly upon him and his latter years are not marked by weakness. Vigorous in body and intellect, he commands the respect and esteem of all, and his life is an example well worth of emulation.


"Hambrooks" - Home of John Campbell Henry in Cambridge, MD. where Francis grew up. The house was demolished in the 1970s. (Between the Nanticoke and the Choptank, An Architectural History of Dorchester County, Maryland)

Upcoming Events and Exhibits

Ruth Starr Rose (1887-1965): Revelations of African Life in Maryland and the World Exhibit
August 29-December 2
Guerrieri Academic Commons, Nabb Center, G. Ray Thompson Exhibit Room Mon, Wed., Fri., 1-4 p.m. or by appointment
A white artist active on the Eastern Shoe, Rose is best known for her thoughtful and honest visual interpretations of African American people in her local community. *Ruth Starr Rose (1887-1965): Revelations of African American Life in Maryland and the World* was developed and organized for the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture by Barbara Paca, Ph.D., guest curator. Exhibition tour management is by Landau Traveling Exhibitions, Los Angeles, CA.

Exhibit Reception
Thursday, September 8
Fulton Hall, University Gallery, Fulton Hall • 5-6:30 p.m.
The Society for the Preservation of African American Arts, a a group of professional musicians, performs.

Exhibit Lecture
Thursday, September 8
Guerrieri Academic Commons, Assembly Hall • 7 p.m.
Barbara Paca, art historian and curator of Ruth Starr Rose exhibit, lectures about the exhibit.

Eastern Shore History Exhibit
August 29-December 16
Guerrieri Academic Commons, Nabb Center, Niemann Gallery
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
This self-guided exhibit highlights various aspects of Delmarva history.

Guerrierri Academic Commons Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Thursday, September 1 • 11 a.m.
Nabb Center Open House, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Environmental Studies Colloquium: Culture & Resource Management on the Chesapeake Bay
Wednesday, November 9
Henson Science Hall 243 • 7 p.m.
Culture and Resource Management on the Chesapeake Bay presented by Michael Paolisso, University of Maryland College Park Department of Anthropology. Co-sponsored by Chesapeake Distinguished Lecture Series and the Nabb Center.

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